



Special Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday 30 April 2025 at 6:00pm

Maryborough Town Hall, 71 Clarendon Street, Maryborough and livestreamed on the internet.

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4 Items of Business

4.1 Draft Rating and Revenue Plan 2025-2029

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Responsible Officer: Acting General Manager Corporate Performance

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council, the Draft Rating and Revenue Plan for 2025 – 2029 and commence community engagement and the public submission process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 – 2029, provided as Attachment 1 to the report, for community consultation.
2. Give public notice of its Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 - 2029 on Council's website and invites written submissions from Thursday, 1 May until Thursday, 22 May 2025.
3. In reliance of its Community Engagement Policy, resolves that any person who makes a written submission and requests in writing, to be heard in support of their submission, will be heard by a Hearing of Council to be held on Wednesday 4 June 2025 commencing at 6pm at the Maryborough Town Hall, if required.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025:

The Community's vision:

Leading Change

4. Activated, engaged, and informed citizens who have a say, volunteer, get involved in community matters.
4. Good planning, governance, and service delivery.
4. Transparent decision making.
4. Effective and sustainable financial management.

Initiative:

Review budget and financial reporting processes to improve monitoring of financial performance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Draft Revenue and Rating Plan is used to inform Council and the community of the medium-term approach to generating income required to support the implementation of the Council Plan and Budget for the next four years.

The Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 - 2029 will be released for Community consultation following the Special Council Meeting on Wednesday, 30 April 2025.

REPORT

The Revenue and Rating Plan is a requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan for a period of four (4) years, to commence on 30 June the year following a general election.

The review of the Revenue and Rating Plan has been based on the current Revenue and Rating Plan 2021 – 2025, adopted by the Council 26 July 2022.

The Plan sets out the details of the policies the Council has in place for each source of revenue, including the system of rates and charges to be adopted by the Council for the purpose of distributing the rates burden across the municipality on a fair and equitable basis.

The key policies in the draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 – 2029 include:

- Use of the capital improved value system of valuation.
- Seven (7) differential rates with the level of rate applicable to each class as follows:
 - Residential – Maryborough (100% of the general rate)
 - Residential – Other (90% of the general rate)
 - Vacant Land (127% of the general rate)
 - Commercial - Maryborough (160% of the general rate)
 - Commercial – Other (136% of the general rate)
 - Industrial (107% of the general rate)
 - Farm (80% of the general rate)
- Municipal charge levied at \$202.00
- Service rate and charge levied for kerbside garbage and recycling at full cost recovery
- Rates payable by quarterly instalment or as a yearly lump sum in February
- Rates and concessions offered in accordance with legislation, including the state government funded pensioner rebate scheme
- Deferment and/or waivers of rates and charges in cases of demonstrable financial hardship for specified property classes
- The Fire Services Property Levy to be replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.
- Benchmarking of non-statutory fees and charges, including subsidised fees and charges

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

The Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 - 2029 engagement process will comprise media information across print, social and radio.

A copy of the draft will be made available to the community via Council's website.

Council invites written submissions from the 1 May 2025 until 22 May 2025.

The process of community engagement is consistent with the Council's community engagement policy.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Revenue and Rating Plan outlines the assumptions, policy, and decisions of Council in relation to generating the required income to effectively support the implementation of the Council Plan and budget for a four-year period.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk:

Financial sustainability - Failure to maintain our long-term financial sustainability

Governance - Failure to transparently govern and embrace good governance practices

by developing the Draft Rating and Revenue Plan 2025 – 2029 and releasing the Rating and Revenue plan out for Community Consultation.

CONCLUSION

The Draft Rating and Revenue Plan 2025 - 2029 will be released for community feedback and submissions after the endorsement on 30 April 2025.

Community consultation will be undertake from 1 May 2025 until 22 May 2025.

Submitters requesting to be heard in support of their written submission will be heard by a Hearing of Council on Wednesday 4 June 2025, commencing at 6:00pm at the Maryborough Town Hall, if required.

The Revenue and rating Plan 2025 – 2029 will be considered for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held Wednesday, 25 June 2025 at 6.00pm.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 2029 [4.1.1]



Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 - 2029



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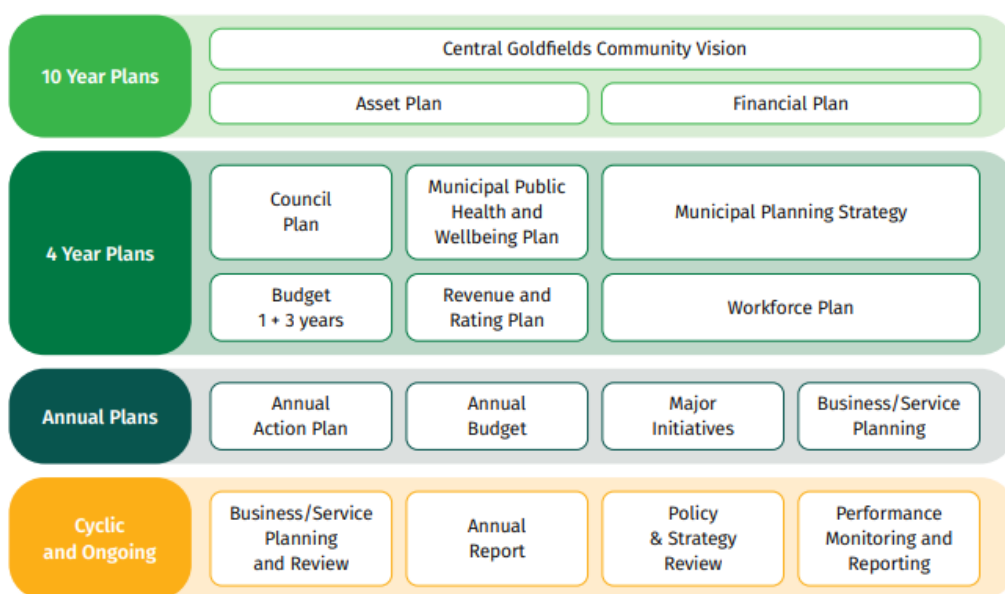
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1.0 Purpose

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires each council to prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan to cover a minimum period of four years following each Council election. The Revenue and Rating Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which the Council proposes to work.

The purpose of the Revenue and Rating Plan is to determine the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for Goldfields Shire Council which in conjunction with other income sources will adequately finance the objectives in the Council Plan.

This plan is an important part of Council's integrated planning framework, all of which is created to help Council achieve its vision of an engaged and responsible community.



Strategies outlined in this plan align with the objectives contained in the Council Plan and will feed into the budgeting and long-term financial planning documents, as well as other strategic planning documents under Council's strategic planning framework.

This plan will explain how Council calculates the revenue needed to fund its activities, and how the funding burden will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services.

The plan sets out decisions that Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under the *Local Government Act 2020* to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners. It will also set out principles that are used in decision making for other revenue sources such as fees and charges.

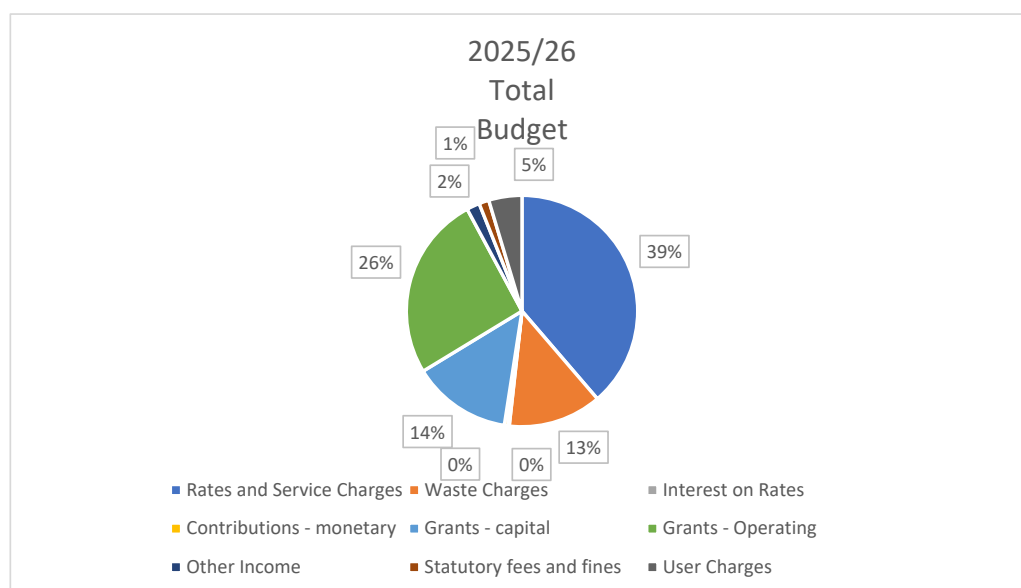
It is also important to note that this plan does not set revenue targets for Council. Instead, it outlines the strategic framework and decisions that inform how Council will go about calculating and collecting its revenue.

2.0 Introduction

Council provides a range of services and facilities to our local community, and in doing so, must collect revenue to cover the cost of providing these services and facilities.

Council's revenue sources include:

- Rates and Charges
- Grants from other levels of Government
- Statutory Fees and Fines
- User Fees
- Cash and non-cash contributions from other parties (i.e. developers, community groups)
- Interest from investments
- Sale of Assets



Property rates (rates) are Council's single biggest income source, representing 39% of income in the 2025-2026 budget. Council's revenue and rating plan articulates to the community how the total rate revenue to be raised is allocated between individual ratepayers.

The introduction of rate capping under the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) has brought a renewed focus to Council's long-term financial sustainability. The FGRS continues to restrict Council's ability to raise revenue above the rate cap unless application is made to the Essential Services Commission for a variation.

Maintaining service delivery levels and investing in the renewal of community assets remain key priorities for Council. This plan will address Council's reliance on rate income and provide options to actively reduce that reliance.

Council provides a wide range of services to the community, often for a fee or charge. The nature of these fees and charges generally depends on whether they relate to statutory or discretionary services. Some of these, such as statutory planning fees are set by State Government statute and are commonly known as regulatory fees. In these cases, councils usually have no control over

service pricing. However, in relation to other services, Council can set a fee or charge and will set that fee based on the principles outlined in this Revenue and Rating Plan.

3.0 Community Engagement

The Revenue and Rating Plan outlines Council's decision-making process on how revenues are calculated and collected. The following public consultation process will be followed to ensure due consideration and feedback is received from relevant stakeholders.

The Revenue and Rating Plan community engagement process will include:

- Review of the Revenue and Rating Plan.
- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan placed on public exhibition at (April) Council meeting for a period of 21 days.
- Community engagement (May) through local news outlets, social media and council's website.
- Hearing of public submissions (May).
- Council Meeting to be held (June) to adopt the Revenue and Rating Plan.

4.0 Rates and Charges

Rates are property taxes that allow Council to raise revenue to fund essential public services to cater to their municipal population. Importantly, it is a taxation system that includes flexibility for councils to utilise different tools in its rating structure to accommodate issues of equity and to ensure fairness in rating for all ratepayers.

Council has established a rating structure comprised of three key elements. These are:

- General Rates – Based on property values (using the Capital Improved Valuation methodology), which are indicative of capacity to pay and form the central basis of rating under the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- Service Charges - A 'user pays' component for council services to reflect benefits provided by Council to ratepayers who benefit from a service.
- Municipal Charge - A 'fixed rate' portion per property to cover some of the administrative costs of Council.

Striking a proper balance between these elements will help to improve equity in the distribution of the rate burden across residents.

Council makes a further distinction when applying general rates by applying rating differentials based on the purpose for which the property is used. That is, whether the property is used for residential, commercial, or farming purposes. This distinction is based on the concept that different property categories should pay a fair and equitable contribution, considering the benefits those properties derive from the local community.

Central Goldfields Shire Councils rating structure comprises five categories of rates (residential, rural residential, vacant, commercial, and farmland) and currently applies two additional "other" differentials to residential and commercial properties. These rates are structured in accordance with the requirements of Section 161 'Differential Rates' of the *Local Government Act 1989*, and the Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating 2013. The differential rates are discussed in more detail later in this document.

Council also levies a municipal charge. The municipal charge is a minimum rate per property and declared for the purpose of covering some of the administrative costs of Council. In applying the municipal charge, Council ensures that each rateable property in the municipality makes a contribution.

The formula for calculating General Rates, excluding any additional charges, arrears or additional supplementary rates is:

- Valuation (Capital Improved Value) x Rate in the Dollar (Differential Rate Type)

The rate in the dollar for each rating differential category is included in Council's annual budget.

Rates and charges are an important source of revenue, accounting for 39% of operating revenue received by Council. The collection of rates is an important factor in funding Council services.

Planning for future rate increases is therefore an essential component of the long-term financial planning process and plays a significant role in funding both additional service delivery and the increasing costs related to providing Council services.

Council is aware of the balance between rate revenue (as an important income source) and community sensitivity to rate increases. With the introduction of the State Government's Fair Go Rates System, all rate increases are capped to a rate declared by the Minister for Local Government, which is announced in December for the following financial year.

Council currently utilises a service charge to fully recover the cost of Council's waste services and provide for future landfill rehabilitation costs. The waste management service charge is not capped under the Fair Go Rates System, and Council will need to ensure that revenue from this charge is applied to appropriate costs associated with providing the service.

Council's revenue and rating plan considers the fair and equitable share of rates to be paid by the owner of each type of property (residential, farm, commercial, industrial and vacant land).

4.1 Rating Legislation

The legislative framework set out in the *Local Government Act 1989* determines Council's ability to develop a rating system. The framework provides significant flexibility for Council to tailor a system that suits its needs.

Section 155 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides that a Council may declare the following rates and charges on rateable land:

- General rates under Section 158
- Municipal charges under Section 159
- Service rates and charges under Section 162
- Special rates and charges under Section 163

The recommended strategy in relation to municipal charges, service rates and charges and special rates and charges are discussed later in this document.

In raising Council rates, Council is required to primarily use the valuation of the rateable property to levy rates. Section 157 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides Council with three choices in terms of which valuation base to utilise. They are Site Valuation (SV), Capital Improved Valuation (CIV) and Net Annual Value (NAV).

The advantages and disadvantages of the respective valuation basis are discussed further in this document. Whilst this document outlines Council's strategy regarding rates revenue, rates data will be contained in the Council's Annual Budget as required by the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Section 94(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that Council must adopt a budget by 30 June each year (or at another time fixed by the Minister) to include:

- a) the total amount that the Council intends to raise by rates and charges.
- b) a statement as to whether the rates will be raised by the application of a uniform rate or a differential rate.
- c) a description of any fixed component of the rates, if applicable.
- d) if the Council proposes to declare a uniform rate, the matters specified in section 160 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- e) if the Council proposes to declare a differential rate for any land, the matters specified in section 161(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Section 94(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* also states that Council must ensure that, if applicable, the budget also contains a statement –

- a) that the Council intends to apply for a special order to increase the Council's average rate cap for the financial year or any other financial year; or
- b) that the Council has made an application to the Essential Services Commission for a special order and is waiting for the outcome of the application; or
- c) that a special Order has been made in respect of the Council and specifying the average rate cap that applies for the financial year or any other financial year.

This plan outlines the principles and strategic framework that Council will utilise in calculating and distributing the rating burden to property owners, however, the quantum of rate revenue and rating differential amounts will be determined in the annual Central Goldfields Shire Council budget.

The Victorian Government has passed the *Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022* (Act), making a number of amendments including a particular focus on ratepayers experiencing hardship and improving the way rates are collected. This change has amended both the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Some of the key changes are:

- a) service rates and charges: Waste charges were previously limited to the collection and disposal of refuse. The Act updates the description of waste charges to include all modern waste management activities such as collection, transport, processing, storage and treatment of waste and recyclable material.
- b) rebates and concessions: The previous arrangements for rate rebates and concessions were confined to the preservation of buildings and the environment, the Act recommends a new, contemporary public benefit test for councils to offer rate rebates and concessions for land uses that provide a public benefit to the community.
- c) hardship and payment plans: The alternative means of paying rates via a payment plan has been formalised in the Act which ensures consistent application across all councils. The Act supports people who are struggling to pay their debt and limits the use of court proceedings for recovering unpaid rates in situations where rates or charges have not been paid for two years or more. It also requires interest rate on unpaid rates to be set by the Minister of Local Government instead of being levied pursuant to *Penalty Interest Rate Act 1983*.

- d) Special rates and charges: The Act requires Councils to levy special rates and charges within 12 months of declaring such a scheme, otherwise the scheme itself lapses.

4.2 Revenue and Rating Principles

The Local Government Victoria Revenue and Rating Strategy Better Practice Guide sets out the following seven revenue and rating principles.

Wealth tax principle

Wealth can be defined as the total value reflected in property and investments and income directed to day-to-day living. Local government is limited to taxing one component of wealth – real property. Council rates tax the stored “wealth” or unrealised capital gains inherent in land and buildings.

The “wealth tax” principle implies that the rates paid are dependent upon the value of a ratepayer’s real property and have no correlation to the individual ratepayer’s consumption of services or the perceived benefits derived by individual ratepayers from the expenditures funded from rates.

One issue associated with the application of the wealth tax principle to property rating is that it takes no account of an individual ratepayer’s net financial equity in a property. Thus, the owner of a house with a valuation of \$300,000 and a \$240,000 mortgage on that property pays the same rates as the owner of a house with a valuation of \$300,000 with no mortgage, despite only having 20% of the net equity (wealth) in that property.

This is an inherent shortcoming of the property rating system, in that it taxes the gross “wealth” embedded in a property, even when the bulk of that “wealth” may not be owned by the property owner (i.e. the majority of the “wealth” is owned by the mortgagee, which in most cases is a bank). In effect, property rates are a tax on controlled wealth, as opposed to wealth measured by financial equity in a property.

Equity

Equity is a subjective concept that is difficult to define. What is considered fair for one person may be considered unfair for another. There are two main equity concepts used to guide the development of rating strategies (and taxation more generally):

Horizontal equity – ratepayers in similar situations should pay similar amounts (ensured mainly by accurate property valuations, undertaken in a consistent manner, their classification into homogenous property classes and the right of appeal against valuation).

Vertical equity – those who are better off should pay more than those worse off (this rationale applies for the use of progressive and proportional income taxation. It implies a “relativity” dimension to the fairness of the tax burden).

Rates are essentially a wealth tax, determined on the value of property. A pure “wealth tax” approach implies that the rates paid relate directly to the value of a ratepayer’s real property. The tests of horizontal and vertical equity are solely based on a property’s value. There is frequent debate surrounding the characteristics of property owners that may impinge on the application of an equity principle. The three main ways in which positions can vary are:

- the benefit or user pays principle – some ratepayers have easier access to, make more use of, or benefit more from the Council services paid for by rates
- the capacity to pay principle – some ratepayers have more ability to pay rates than do others with similarly valued properties
- the incentive or encouragement principle – some ratepayers may be doing more towards achieving Council goals than others (for example, in areas such as employment creation and environmental or heritage protection).

Efficiency

Economic efficiency is measured by the extent to which production and consumption decisions by people are affected by a tax. Setting aside taxes explicitly intended to change behaviour (such as high taxes on cigarettes), a perfectly efficient tax would be one, which did not distort behaviour. Of course, there is no such tax – all taxes affect behaviour to some extent. However, economic efficiency in revenue collection is maximised when the degree of this distortion is minimised.

Price is the major mechanism through which taxation efficiency may be achieved and for services where users are price sensitive, direct charging can influence demand and thus lead to greater efficiency. Conversely, the funding of services through rates (or via subsidies from other services) may result in an inflated demand for services and additional costs for Councils to meet this demand. As a result, a mix of user charges and rates revenue funds a variety of Council services.

The efficiency of a tax is also related to the cost of administration. Administration costs include the issuing of assessments, collection of rates (including maintaining and improving collection systems), monitoring outcomes, educating and informing ratepayers, and enforcement and debt recovery.

Simplicity

The taxation principle of simplicity revolves around how easily a system can be understood by the public, and in particular ratepayers. This can conflict with the principles of equity and efficiency.

A simple rating scheme would have a limited number of rating classifications, even using a uniform rate. Other features of a simple rating scheme may be practicality and ease of administration. Rates in general are quite simple to administer in that they rely on a clear information source (property values), and they place a levy on something that is impossible to conceal (land). Public understanding is another consideration for a Council in striving for simplicity. A simple system should be easier for the public to understand as should the explanation of it by a Council.

The efficacy of using rates to provide incentive or encouragement for ratepayers to act in a certain way to achieve corporate goals (e.g. environmental) should be evaluated critically against other approaches in terms of likely effectiveness.

Benefit principle

A popular complaint levelled at Councils is that “the rates I pay have no correlation with the services I consume or the benefits I receive”. This argument is based on the benefit principle (the opposite of the wealth tax principle) that argues there should be a clear nexus between consumption/benefit and the rate burden. A user pays system is closely reflective of the benefit principle.

Application of the benefit principle to rates is difficult in practice because of the impossibility of measuring the relative levels of access and consumption across the full range of Council services. While it might be quite obvious that certain geographic areas may not get access to specific services, for example street lighting, it is the level of benefit across the full range of rates-funded services that is important in determining the number of rates that should be paid. This exercise is not clear cut – for example, it might be argued that rural ratepayers derive less benefit from library services than their town counterparts, but the reverse argument can apply to the costs of repairing gravel roads in rural areas which are predominantly used by rural ratepayers.

In some ways the arguing of the benefit principle with respect to Council rates is like trying to do the same for Commonwealth income tax that is used to fund a wide range of universally accessed services.

The benefits received principle applies to many tax systems, for example stamp duty paid on the purchase of a motor vehicle. However, it is difficult to rationalise a relationship between rates paid and services provided by local government. It is even more tenuous when attempting to draw a

relationship with rates against services actually used by ratepayers, of which there is little research or evidence to support a proportional connection.

The analysis of benefit is often reduced to arguments of what services are consumed by town v. country, businesses v. residences and between different towns and suburbs. Such a simplistic determination of rates based on where services are located ignores the facts that:

- many services are not location specific
- access is not synonymous with consumption
- residents can travel or use technology to access some services
- more significantly, services provided in different locations within a municipality have different costs. For example, the actual cost of providing the same or a lesser level of service to a more remote or less central location may be higher due to dis-economies of scale or logistical reasons.

Capacity to pay

The capacity to pay principle stands in contrast to the benefits received principle. Its measurability may be either determined by wealth or income. In the case of local government rating, it is determined on the value of property which reflects wealth, rather than the actual income of the ratepayer. It is acknowledged that over the lifetime of a taxpayer, the relativity between income and wealth may vary significantly.

Councils may decide that capacity to pay is fundamentally reflected by property value or that the application of the wealth tax and benefit principles should be moderated for groups of ratepayers because of capacity to pay considerations.

As rates are levied on unrealised wealth in the form of property, their nexus with ratepayers' capacity to pay may be tenuous – ratepayers may be “asset rich” but “cash poor” or vice versa.

It is an inherent restriction of property taxation that it does not recognise the situation where ratepayers are “asset rich” and “cash poor”. In these cases, ratepayers may be assessed as having considerable wealth reflected in the property that they own, but have a low level of cash income. Examples may include pensioners, businesses facing cyclical downturn, households with large families, single parent families, property owners with little equity in their property and farmers dealing with climate variability.

The use of differential rating categories is a blunt tool that is available to Councils in order to attempt to address the capacity to pay issue to some degree.

Diversity

There is no way of getting around the fact that despite the “likeness” of members of property classes, there will also be considerable diversity within each class. There is considerable diversity in the economic circumstances of households related to household income, the number of breadwinners and members, expenditure patterns and debt levels.

Similarly, enormous business diversity exists – businesses range from small businesses with owner operators and few employees to corporations employing many thousands of people. They may take a variety of forms – sole operators, companies, partnerships, cooperatives and trusts. Production may cover a diverse range of goods and services for local, national or overseas markets. They may vary considerably in terms of turnover, net worth, profitability and gearing – just to name a few characteristics. Businesses may be “price takers” with little market power or “price makers” operating in oligopolistic markets.

The taxation effect of property rates for income tax purposes is another point of diversity that challenges the equity principles of property rating. Businesses that occupy commercial, industrial or farm properties are able to claim property rates as an income tax expense. This allows businesses to pay property rates in after-tax dollars, as opposed to private non-businesspeople who have to pay property rates in pre-tax dollars. There is a line of thought that incorporating the income taxation effect of property rates into the setting of differential rating category relativities would improve the overall equity of property rating systems.

Council rate setting for different groups may need to have regard to the general capacity of those classes of property to pay rates. There are practical limits to the extent that classes may be differentiated because of impacts on efficiency and simplicity – and the broader a property class, the more general are the assumptions about capacity to pay. Clearly, there is an issue of how well the assumptions made about a large class of ratepayers accurately reflect the circumstances of most of its members. The rating challenge for Council therefore is to determine the appropriate balancing of competing considerations.

Rates and Charges Revenue Principles:

Property rates will:

- be reviewed annually;
- not change dramatically from one year to next; and
- be sufficient to fund current expenditure commitments and deliverables outlined in the Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan.

Differential rating should be applied as equitably as is practical and will comply with the Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating 2013.

4.3 Determining Which Valuation Base To Use

Under the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council has three options as to the valuation base it elects to use. They are:

- Capital Improved Value (CIV) – Value of land and improvements upon the land.
- Site Value (SV) – Value of land only.
- Net Annual Value (NAV) – Rental valuation based on CIV.

For residential and farm properties, NAV is calculated at 5 per cent of the Capital Improved Value. For commercial and industrial properties, NAV is calculated as the greater of the estimated annual rental value or 5 per cent of the CIV.

Capital Improved Value (CIV)

Capital Improved Value is the most commonly used valuation base by local government with over 90% of Victorian councils applying this methodology. Based on the value of both land and all improvements on the land, it is generally easily understood by ratepayers as it equates to the market value of the property.

Section 161 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides that a Council may raise any general rates by the application of a differential rate if –

- a) It uses the capital improved value system of valuing land; and

- b) It considers that a differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions.

Where a council does not utilise CIV, it may only apply limited differential rates in relation to farmland or residential use land.

Advantages of using CIV

- CIV includes all property improvements and hence is often supported on the basis that it more closely reflects “capacity to pay”. The CIV rating method takes into account the full development value of the property, and hence better meets the equity criteria than SV or NAV.
- With the increased frequency of valuations (previously two-year intervals, now annual intervals) the market values are more predictable and has reduced the level of objections resulting from valuations.
- The concept of the market value of property is more easily understood with CIV rather than NAV or SV.
- Most councils in Victoria have now adopted CIV which makes it easier to compare relative movements in rates and valuations across councils.
- The use of CIV allows council to apply differential rates which greatly adds to council’s ability to equitably distribute the rating burden based on ability to afford council rates. CIV allows council to apply higher rating differentials to the commercial and industrial sector that offset residential rates.

Disadvantages of using CIV

The main disadvantage with CIV is the fact that rates are based on the total property value which may not necessarily reflect the income level of the property owner as with pensioners and low-income earners.

Site value (SV)

There are currently no Victorian councils that use this valuation base. With valuations based simply on the valuation of land and with only very limited ability to apply differential rates, the implementation of Site Value would cause a shift in rate burden from the commercial sectors onto the residential sector and would hinder Council’s objective of a fair and equitable rating system.

There would be further rating movements away from modern townhouse style developments on relatively small land parcels to older established homes on quarter acre residential blocks. In many ways, it is difficult to see an equity argument being served by the implementation of site valuation in Central Goldfields Shire.

Advantages of Site Value

- There is a perception that under site value, a uniform rate would promote development of land, particularly commercial and industrial developments. There is, however, little evidence to prove that this is the case.
- Scope for possible concessions for farmland and residential use land.

Disadvantages of using Site Value.

- Under SV, there will be a significant shift from the commercial sector onto the residential sector of the Shire. The percentage increases in many cases would be in the extreme range.
- SV is a major burden on property owners that have large areas of land. Some of these owners may have much smaller/older dwellings compared to those who have smaller land areas but well-developed dwellings - but will pay more in rates. A typical example is flats, units, or townhouses which will all pay low rates compared to traditional housing styles.
- The use of SV can place pressure on Council to give concessions to categories of landowners on whom the rating burden is seen to fall disproportionately (e.g. Farmland and residential use properties). Large landowners, such as farmers for example, are disadvantaged using site value.
- SV will reduce Council's rating flexibility and options to deal with any rating inequities due to the removal of the ability to levy differential rates.
- The community may have greater difficulty in understanding the SV valuation on their rate notices, as indicated by many inquiries from ratepayers on this issue handled by council's customer service and property revenue staff each year.

Net annual value (NAV)

NAV, in concept, represents the annual rental value of a property. However, in practice, NAV is loosely linked to capital improved value for residential and farm properties. Valuers derive the NAV directly as 5 per cent of CIV.

In contrast to the treatment of residential and farm properties, NAV for commercial and industrial properties are assessed with regard to actual market rental. This differing treatment of commercial versus residential and farm properties has led to some suggestions that all properties should be valued on a rental basis.

Overall, the use of NAV is not largely supported. For residential and farm ratepayers, actual rental values pose some problems. The artificial rental estimate used may not represent actual market value, and means the base is the same as CIV but is harder to understand.

Recommended valuation base

In choosing a valuation base, councils must decide on whether they wish to adopt a differential rating system (different rates in the dollar for different property categories) or a uniform rating system (same rate in the dollar). If a council was to choose the former, under the *Local Government Act 1989* it must adopt either of the CIV or NAV methods of rating.

Central Goldfields Council applies Capital Improved Value (CIV) to all properties within the municipality to take into account the fully developed value of the property. This basis of valuation takes into account the total market value of the land plus buildings and other improvements.

Differential rating allows (under the CIV method) Council to shift part of the rate burden from some groups of ratepayers to others, through different "rates in the dollar" for each class of property.

Section 161(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* outlines the requirements relating to differential rates, which include:

- a) A Council may raise any general rates by the application of a differential rate, if Council considers that the differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions.
- b) If a Council declares a differential rate for any land, the Council must specify the objectives of the differential rate, which must be consistent with the equitable and efficient carrying out of the Council's functions and must include the following:
 - i. A definition of the types or classes of land which are subject to the rate and a statement of the reasons for the use and level of that rate.
 - ii. An identification of the type or classes of land which are subject to the rate in respect of the uses, geographic location (other than location on the basis of whether or not the land is within a specific ward in Council's district).
 - iii. Specify the characteristics of the land, which are the criteria for declaring the differential rate.

Once the Council has declared a differential rate for any land, the Council must:

- a) Specify the objectives of the differential rates;
- b) Specify the characteristics of the land which are the criteria for declaring the differential rate.

The purpose is to ensure that Council has a sound basis on which to develop the various charging features when determining its revenue strategies and ensure that these are consistent with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

The general objectives of each of the differential rates are to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council. There is no limit on the number or types of differential rates that can be levied, but the highest differential rate can be no more than four times the lowest differential rate.

Property Valuations

The *Valuation of Land Act 1960* is the principal legislation in determining property valuations. Under the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*, the Victorian Valuer-General conducts property valuations on an annual basis. Central Goldfields Shire Council applies a Capital Improved Value (CIV) to all properties within the municipality to take into account the full development value of the property. This basis of valuation takes into account the total market value of the land including buildings and other improvements.

The value of land is always derived by the principal of valuing land for its highest and best use at the relevant time of valuation.

Council needs to be mindful of the impacts of revaluations on the various property types in implementing the differential rating strategy outlined in the previous section to ensure that rises and falls in Council rates remain affordable and that rating 'shocks' are mitigated to some degree.

Rate shock is defined by Council as the movement (both up or down) in total rates paid by any one differential rating category in any one year by ten percent (10%) or more.

The intention of Council is that where rate shock occurs for one or more particular differential rating category in any particular year, Council will cap the movement in total rates raised for that differential rating category at 10% by changing the level of the rate in the dollar CIV.

Supplementary Valuations

Supplementary valuations are carried out for a variety of reasons including rezoning, subdivisions, amalgamations, renovations, new constructions, extensions, occupancy changes and corrections. The Victorian Valuer-General is tasked with undertaking supplementary valuations and advises Council on a monthly basis of valuation and Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) changes.

Supplementary valuations bring the value of the affected property into line with the general valuation of other properties within the municipality. Objections to supplementary valuations can be lodged in accordance with Part 3 of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*. Any objections must be lodged with Council within two months of the issue of the supplementary rate notice.

Objections to property valuations

Part 3 of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* provides that a property owner may lodge an objection against the valuation of a property or the Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) within two months of the issue of the original or amended (supplementary) Rates and Valuation Charges Notice (Rates Notice), or within four months if the notice was not originally issued to the occupier of the land.

A property owner must lodge their objection to the valuation or the AVPCC in writing to Council. Property owners also can object to the site valuations on receipt of their Land Tax Assessment. Property owners can appeal their land valuation within two months of receipt of their Council Rate Notice (via Council) or within two months of receipt of their Land Tax Assessment (via the State Revenue Office)

4.4 Rating Differentials

Council believes each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of council functions. Details of the objectives of each differential rate, the classes of land which are subject to each differential rate and the uses of each differential rate are set out below.

Council's rating strategy currently has five different land categories, but seven differential rating categories as follows:

- Residential - Maryborough
- Residential - Other
- Vacant Land
- Commercial - Maryborough
- Commercial - Other
- Industrial
- Farm

Residential Maryborough

Meaning that rateable land which has an occupiable dwelling able to be issued with a certificate of occupancy, is used solely for residential purposes and is situated within the Maryborough District boundary. To ensure an equitable contribution towards the total rate income, having regard to the location, use and services available to the land by proximity to the major service centre.

Residential Other

Meaning that rateable land which has an occupiable dwelling able to be issued with a certificate of occupancy, is used solely for residential purposes, and is situated outside the Maryborough District boundary. To ensure an equitable contribution towards the total rate income, having regard to the location, use and services available to the land where the infrastructure cost and service provision has been affected by reason of its distance from the major service centre - Maryborough.

Vacant Land

Meaning that rateable land where no occupiable dwelling is erected (an occupiable dwelling has a Certificate of Occupancy issued). To ensure an equitable contribution towards the total rate income and encourage the development of vacant land.

Commercial Maryborough

Meaning that rateable land which is used solely for commercial purposes and is situated within the Maryborough District boundary. To ensure an equitable contribution towards the total rate income which recognises the objective of maintaining an environment which is beneficial to the continuing operation of these properties, as well as the use and services available to the land.

Commercial Other

Meaning that rateable land which is used solely for commercial purposes and is situated outside the Maryborough District boundary. To ensure an equitable contribution towards the total rate income, which recognises the objective of maintaining an environment which is beneficial to the continuing operation of these properties where the cost of infrastructure and commercial opportunity differ from Maryborough Commercial, as well as the use and services available to the land.

Industrial

Meaning that rateable land which is used solely for industrial purposes. To ensure an equitable contribution towards the total rate income which recognises the objective of maintaining an environment which is beneficial to the continuing operation of these properties, reflects the cost of infrastructure and encourages development.

The difference between commercial and industrial land is mainly one of use. In general, commercial areas are used for trading goods and services while industrial areas serve as sites of production. Commercial areas are most valuable when they receive heavy traffic from potential customers.

Farm

Meaning that rateable land, in aggregate, which is not less than 16 hectares (40 acres) in area, and which is used primarily for carrying on one or more of the following businesses or industries:

Grazing (including agistment) dairying, pig farming, poultry, farming, fish farming, tree farming, beekeeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing or the growing of crops of any kind.

To ensure an equitable contribution towards the total rate income commensurate with the nature of the land the capital improved value of which has been affected by reason of its abnormally large area and the use to which it is put in comparison to the general land size of the majority of rateable properties within the municipal district.

Advantages of a differential rating system

The advantages of utilising a differential rating system summarised below are:

- There is greater flexibility to distribute the rate burden between all classes of property and therefore link rates with the ability to pay and reflecting the tax deductibility of rates for commercial and industrial premises.
- Differential rating allows Council to better reflect the investment required by Council to establish infrastructure to meet the needs of the commercial and industrial sector.
- Allows Council to reflect the unique circumstances of some rating categories where the application of a uniform rate may create an inequitable outcome (e.g. Farming enterprises).
- Allows Council discretion in the imposition of rates to facilitate and encourage appropriate development of its municipal district in the best interest of the community. (i.e. Vacant Commercial properties still attract the commercial differential rate)

Disadvantages of a differential rating system

The disadvantages in applying differential rating summarised below are:

- The justification of the differential rate can at times be difficult for the various groups to accept giving rise to queries and complaints where the differentials may seem to be excessive.
- Differential rates can be confusing to ratepayers, as they may have difficulty understanding the system. Some rating categories may feel they are unfavourably treated because they are paying a higher level of rates than other ratepayer groups.
- Differential rating involves a degree of administrative complexity as properties continually shift from one type to another (e.g. residential to commercial) requiring Council to update its records. Ensuring the accuracy/integrity of Council's data base is critical to ensure that properties are correctly classified into their right category.
- Council may not achieve the objectives it aims for through differential rating. For example, Council may set its differential rate objectives to levy a higher rate on land not developed, however it may be difficult to prove whether the rate achieves those objectives.

4.5 Municipal Charge

Another principle relating to options available to Councils is the application of a municipal charge. Under Section 159 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council may declare a municipal charge to cover some of the administrative costs of Council. The legislation is not definitive on what comprises administrative costs and does not require Council to specify what is covered by the charge.

The application of a municipal charge represents a choice to raise a portion of the rates by a flat fee for all properties, rather than sole use of the CIV valuation method.

Under the *Local Government Act 1989*, a council's total revenue from a municipal charge in a financial year must not exceed 20 per cent of the combined sum total of the Council's total revenue from the municipal charge and the revenue from general rates (total rates).

The municipal charge applies equally to all properties and is based upon the recovery of a fixed cost of providing administrative services irrespective of valuation. The same contribution amount per assessment to cover a portion of council's administrative costs can be seen as an equitable method of recovering these costs.

4.6 Special charge schemes

The *Local Government Act 1989* recognises that councils need help to provide improved infrastructure for their local communities. Legislation allows councils to pass on the cost of capital infrastructure to the owner of a property that generally receives a unique benefit from the construction works. The technical explanation of a Special Charge comes from legislation (under the *Local Government Act 1989*) that allows councils to recover the cost of works from property owners who will gain special benefit from that work.

The purposes for which special rates and special charges may be used include road construction, kerb and channelling, footpath provision, drainage, and other capital improvement projects.

The special rate or special charge may be declared in accordance with Council's Special Rates and Charges Policy, which also determines the maximum contribution Council will provide towards declared projects.

Special rates and charges may be declared on the basis of any criteria specified by the council in the rate (Section 163 (2)). In accordance with Section 163 (3), Council must specify:

- a) the wards, groups, uses or areas for which the special rate or charge is declared; and
- b) the land in relation to which the special rate or special charge is declared;
- c) the manner in which the special rate or special charge will be assessed and levied; and
- d) details of the period for which the special rate or special charge remains in force.

The special rates and charges provisions are flexible and can be used to achieve a wide range of community objectives. The fundamental principle of special rates and charges is proof "special benefit" applies to those being levied. For example, they could be used to fund co-operative fire prevention schemes. This would ensure that there were no 'free riders' reaping the benefits but not contributing to fire prevention.

Landscaping and environmental improvement programs that benefit small or localised areas could also be funded using special rates or charges.

In recognition of the *Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022*, the declaration of a Special Charge of Special Rate made after 9 August 2022 will expire if the special rate or special charge is not levied within 12 months of declaring such a scheme.

4.7 Service rates and charges

Section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides council with the opportunity to raise service rates and charges for any of the following services:

- a) The provision of a water supply;
- b) The collection and disposal of refuse;
- c) The provision of sewage services;
- d) Any other prescribed service.

Council currently applies a service charge for the collection and disposal of refuse on urban properties (compulsory) and rural properties (optional) and providing waste services for the municipality (street litter bins for instance). Council retains the objective of setting the service charge for waste at a level

that fully recovers the cost of the waste services, including providing for the cost of rehabilitation of Council's closed landfill.

It is recommended that Council retain the existing waste service charge – should Council elect not to have a waste service charge, this same amount would be required to be raised by way of an increased general rate – meaning that residents in higher valued properties would substantially pay for the waste service of lower valued properties.

Whilst this same principle applies for rates in general, the mix of having a single fixed charge combined with valuation driven rates for the remainder of the rate invoice provides a balanced and equitable outcome.

The Minister for Local Government on Thursday, 21 December 2023 released the Ministers' Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges.

These Good Practice Guidelines for Service Rates and Charges are made under Section 87 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. They set out what constitutes good practice by councils in the determination and declaration of Service Rates and Charges under Section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and any other matters related to compliance and accountability by councils.

The objective of these Good Practice Guidelines is to ensure that Service Rates and Charges:

- are only used to recover the reasonable costs of providing a direct service to an occupancy;
- are calculated and declared in a fair and transparent manner; and
- subject to public engagement in accordance with a council's Community Engagement Policy.

The only specified reasons for councils to raise Service Rates and Charges are:

- Waste, recycling or resource recovery services; and
- Any other service prescribed in regulations.

These Guidelines were originally to take effect from 1 March 2024, but with the appointment of a new Minister for Local Government, the guidelines are being reviewed. Waste Charges for the 2025/26 financial year will be set as part of the Budget process and will be based on Councils traditional cost structure.

5.0 Collection and Administration of rates and charges

The purpose of this section is to outline the rate payment options, processes, and the support provided to ratepayers facing financial hardship.

Payment options

In accordance with section 167(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* ratepayers have the option of paying rates and charges by way of four instalments. Payments are due on the prescribed dates below:

- 1st Instalment: 30 September
- 2nd Instalment: 30 November
- 3rd Instalment: 28 February
- 4th Instalment: 31 May
- In full: 15 February

Council offers a range of payment options including:

- in person at Council offices (cash, cheques, money orders, EFTPOS, and credit/debit cards),
- online via Council's ratepayer portal, direct debit (on prescribed instalment due dates or weekly, fortnightly, monthly, yearly in full),
- BPAY,
- Centrepay
- by mail (cheques and money orders only),
- by phone (automated phone banking or with Council's customer service team).

Interest on arrears and overdue rates

Interest is charged on all overdue rates in accordance with Section 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The interest rate applied is fixed under Section 2 of the *Penalty Interest Rates Act 1983*, which is determined by the Minister and published by notice in the Government Gazette.

Pensioner rebates

Holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession card or a Veteran Affairs Gold card which stipulates TPI, or War Widow may claim a rebate on their sole or principal place of residence. Upon initial application, ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner rebate is deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer.

With regards to new applicants, after being granted a Pensioner Concession Card (PCC), pensioners can then apply for the rebate at any time throughout the rating year. Retrospective claims up to a maximum of one previous financial year can be approved by Council on verification of eligibility criteria, for periods prior to this, claims may be approved by the relevant government department.

Deferred payments

Under Section 170 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council may defer the payment of any rate or charge for an eligible ratepayer whose property is their sole place of residency, allowing ratepayers an extended period of time to make payments or alternatively to forestall payments on an indefinite basis until the ratepayer ceases to own or occupy the land in respect of which rates and charges are to be levied.

Deferral of rates and charges are available to all ratepayers who satisfy the eligibility criteria and have proven financial difficulties. Where Council approves an application for deferral of rates or charges, interest will continue to be levied on the outstanding balance of rates and charges but at an interest rate fixed annually by Council. This deferred interest rate will typically be well under the penalty interest rate levied by Council on unpaid rates and charges.

Ratepayers seeking to apply for such provision will be required to submit an application form which is available at the Council offices, on the Council website or which can be posted upon request.

Financial Hardship Policy

It is acknowledged at the outset that various ratepayers may experience financial hardship for a whole range of issues and that meeting rate obligations constitutes just one element of a number of difficulties that may be faced. The purpose of the Financial Hardship policy is to provide options for

ratepayers facing such situations to deal with the situation positively and reduce the strain imposed by financial hardship.

Ratepayers may elect to either negotiate a rate payment plan or apply for a rate deferral. Ratepayers seeking to apply for such provision will be required to submit an application form which is available at the Council offices, Council website or can be posted upon request.

Debt recovery

Council makes every effort to contact ratepayers at their correct address, but it is the ratepayers' responsibility to properly advise Council of their contact details. The *Local Government Act 1989* Section 230 and 231 requires both the vendor and buyer of property, or their agents (e.g., solicitors and or conveyancers), to notify Council by way of notice of disposition or acquisition of an interest in land.

If an account becomes overdue, Council will issue an overdue reminder notice which will include accrued penalty interest. If the account remains unpaid, Council may take legal action without further notice to recover the overdue amount. All fees and court costs incurred will be recoverable from the ratepayer.

If an amount payable by way of rates in respect to land has been in arrears for three years or more, Council may take action to sell the property in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* Section 181.

Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

In 2016 the Victorian State Government passed legislation requiring the Fire Services Property Levy to be collected from ratepayers. Previously this was collected through building and property insurance premiums. The Fire Services Property Levy helps fund the services provided by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and Country Fire Authority, and all levies collected by Council are passed through to the State Government.

The Fire Services Property Levy is based on two components, a fixed charge, and a variable charge which is linked to the Capital Improved Value of the property. This levy is not included in the rate cap, and increases in the levy are at the discretion of the State Government.

From 1 July 2025 the Fire Services Property Levy will be replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.

It will help support a broader range of emergency services and for the first time include VicSES, Triple Zero Victoria, the State Control Centre, Forest Fire Management Victoria and Emergency Recovery Victoria, as well as the Country Fire Authority and Fire Rescue Victoria.

6.0 Other Revenue Items

6.1 User fees and charges

User fees and charges are those that Council will charge for the delivery of services and use of community infrastructure.

Examples of user fees and charges include:

- Pool visitation and membership fees
- Resource Recovery Centre fees
- Childcare fees

- Leases and facility hire fees
- Facility Hire
- Registration and other permits fees
- Compliance fees

The provision of infrastructure and services form a key part of Council's role in supporting the local community. In providing these, Council must consider a range of 'Best Value' principles including service cost and quality standards, value-for-money, and community expectations and values. Council must also balance the affordability and accessibility of infrastructure and services with its financial capacity and in the interests of long-term financial sustainability.

Councils must also comply with the government's Competitive Neutrality Policy for significant business activities they provide and adjust their service prices to neutralise any competitive advantages when competing with the private sector.

In providing services to the community, Council must determine the extent of cost recovery for particular services consistent with the level of both individual and collective benefit that the services provide and in line with the community's expectations.

Services are provided based on one of the following pricing methods:

- a) Market Price
- b) Full Cost Recovery Price
- c) Subsidised Price

Market pricing (a) is where Council sets prices based on the benchmarked competitive prices of alternate suppliers. In general market price represents full cost recovery plus an allowance for profit. Market prices will be used when other providers exist in the given market, and council needs to meet its obligations under the government's Competitive Neutrality Policy. *It should be noted that if a market price is lower than Council's full cost price, then the market price would represent Council subsidising that service. If this situation exists, and there are other suppliers existing in the market at the same price, this may mean that Council is not the most efficient supplier in the marketplace. In this situation, Council will consider whether there is a community service obligation and whether Council should be providing this service at all.*

Full cost recovery price b) aims to recover all direct and indirect costs incurred by council. This pricing should be used in particular where a service provided by Council benefits individual customers specifically, rather than the community as a whole. In principle, fees and charges should be set at a level that recovers the full cost of providing the services unless there is an overriding policy or imperative in favour of subsidisation.

Subsidised pricing c) is where Council subsidises a service by not passing the full cost of that service onto the customer. Subsidies may range from full subsidies (i.e. Council provides the service free of charge) to partial subsidies, where Council provides the service to the user with a discount. The subsidy can be funded from Council's rate revenue or other sources such as Commonwealth and State funding programs. Full Council subsidy pricing and partial cost pricing should always be based on knowledge of the full cost of providing a service.

Council will develop a table of fees and charges as part of its annual budget each year. Proposed pricing changes will be included in this table and will be communicated to stakeholders before the budget is

adopted, giving them the chance to review and provide valuable feedback before the fees are locked in.

6.2 Statutory fees and charges

Statutory fees and fines are those which Council collects under the direction of legislation or other government directives. The rates used for statutory fees and fines are generally advised by the state government department responsible for the corresponding services or legislation, and generally councils will have limited discretion in applying these fees.

Examples of statutory fees and fines include:

- Planning and subdivision fees
- Building and Inspection fees
- Infringements and fines
- Land Information Certificate fees

Penalty and fee units are used in Victoria's Acts and Regulations to describe the amount of a fine or a fee.

Penalty units

Penalty units are used to define the amount payable for fines for many offences. For example, the fine for selling a tobacco product to a person aged under 18 is four penalty units.

One penalty unit is currently \$197.59, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

The rate for penalty units is indexed each financial year so that it is raised in line with inflation. Any change to the value of a penalty unit will happen on 1 July each year.

Fee units

Fee units are used to calculate the cost of a certificate, registration or licence that is set out in an Act or Regulation. For example, the cost of depositing a Will with the Supreme Court Registrar of probates is 1.6 fee units.

The value of one fee unit is currently \$16.33. This value may increase at the beginning of a financial year, at the same time as penalty units.

The cost of fees and penalties is calculated by multiplying the number of units by the current value of the fee or unit. The exact cost may be rounded up or down.

6.3 Grants

Grant revenue represents income usually received from other levels of government. Some grants are singular and attached to the delivery of specific projects, whilst others can be of a recurrent nature and may or may not be linked to the delivery of projects.

Council will pro-actively advocate to other levels of government for grant funding support to deliver important infrastructure and service outcomes for the community. Council may use its own funds to leverage higher grant funding and maximise external funding opportunities.

When preparing its financial plan, Council considers its project proposal pipeline, advocacy priorities, upcoming grant program opportunities, and co-funding options to determine what grants to apply for. Council will only apply for and accept external funding if it is consistent with the Community Vision and does not lead to the distortion of Council Plan priorities.

Grant assumptions are then clearly detailed in Council's budget document. No project that is reliant on grant funding will proceed until a signed funding agreement is in place.

6.4 Contributions

Contributions represent funds received by Council, usually from non-government sources, and are usually linked to projects.

Contributions can be made to Council in the form of either cash payments or asset handovers.

Examples of contributions include:

- Monies collected from developers under planning and development agreements.
- Monies collected under developer contribution plans and infrastructure contribution plans.
- Contributions from user groups towards upgrade of facilities
- Assets handed over to Council from developers at the completion of a subdivision, such as roads, drainage, and streetlights.

Contributions should always be linked to a planning or funding agreement. Council will not undertake any work on a contribution-funded project until a signed agreement outlining the contribution details is in place.

Contributions linked to developments can be received well before any Council expenditure occurs. In this situation, the funds will be identified and held in a reserve for the specific works identified in the agreements.

6.5 Interest on investments

Council receives interest on funds managed as part of its investment portfolio, where funds are held in advance of expenditure, or for special purposes. The investment portfolio is managed per Council's investment policy, which seeks to earn the best return on funds, whilst minimising risk.

4.2 Draft 2025/26 Budget

Author: Manager Finance

Responsible Officer: Acting General Manager Corporate Performance

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to propose that Council endorse the Draft 2025/26 Budget (incorporating the four (4) year Budget) and commence the community engagement and public submission process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse its draft 2025/26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget), provided as Attachment 1 to this report for community consultation.
2. Give public notice of the draft 2025/26 Budget on Council's website and invites written submissions from Thursday, 1 May until Thursday, 22 May 2025.
3. In reliance of its Community Engagement Policy, resolves that any person who makes a written submission and requests in writing, to be heard in support of their submission, will be heard by a Hearing of Council to be held on Wednesday 4 June 2025 commencing at 6:00pm at the Maryborough Town Hall, if required.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025:

The Community's vision: **Leading Change**
4. Effective and sustainable financial management.

Initiative: Review budget and financial reporting processes to improve monitoring of financial performance.

The draft Budget has been prepared in accordance with relevant statutory requirements, including the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Draft 2025/26 Budget meets Council's legislative responsibility and has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, which states that a Council must:

- Prepare and adopt a budget for each financial year and the subsequent 3 years by 30 June each year, Section 94(1)(a).
- Develop the budget and any revised budget in accordance with the financial management principles, Section 96(1)(a).
- Develop the budget and any revised budget in accordance with its community engagement policy, Section 96(1)(b).

REPORT

The Draft 2025/26 Budget (draft Budget) has been developed and is reflective of Council's priorities as outlined in Council's Long Term Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025.

The draft Budget continues to deliver services and capital works to the community within the 3.00 per cent rate cap set by the State Government. Council's Waste charges have been increased by 11% in 2025/26 for standard waste charges and varying increases for non-standard waste charges. This is to ensure that the full cost of Council's whole waste management function continues to be fully funded by the waste charge.

Ministerial guidelines have been released for implementation in the following year.

The surplus for the year in the draft 2025/26 Budget is proposed to be \$1.415 million.

This can be compared to an audited deficit for the year in 2023/24 of \$5.0M and a forecast surplus for 2024/25 of \$723,000.

The total capital works program equates to \$10.588 million, including an estimated \$6.321 million of carry forward projects. Further explanations around various capital works items are included at Attachment 1 to this report.

In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, community engagement will be undertaken on the draft Budget prior to Council's final consideration of the 2025/26 Budget in June.

It is proposed that this engagement period commences following Council's endorsement of the Draft Budget, and concludes at 5.00PM Thursday, 29 May 2025.

An invitation will also be extended to people making a submission to present those submissions at a meeting to be held Wednesday, 4 June 2025.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

The Draft Budget engagement process will comprise media information across print, social and radio.

A copy of the Draft Budget will be made available to the community via Council's website.

Council invites written submissions from the 1 May 2025 until 22 May 2025.

The process of community engagement is consistent with the Council's community engagement policy.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**Comprehensive Income Statement**

The budget has a net surplus of \$1.415 million with a total of \$6.244 million of Capital grants budgeted for the 2024/25 year.

This produces an adjusted underlying deficit result of \$4.829 million.

Fees and Charges have been indexed at three (3) per cent unless otherwise adjusted using benchmarking, or a review of full cost recovery.

A full list of fees and charges is included in section six of the budget document.

The budget has been prepared on the basis that Council will receive the Financial Assistance Grant in the 2025/26 financial year, in line with the prior year.

Balance Sheet

Cash on hand is forecast to be \$1.03 million as at 30 June 2025 and to be \$1.969 million as at 30 June 2026.

Council's current loan facilities of \$2.089 million is budgeted to be refinanced during the financial year. Additional borrowings have been included in the draft budget in the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years to fund multi-year projects.

The timing of borrowings has been estimated to ensure borrowings are taken on a just-in-time basis to minimise borrowing costs.

Statement of Changes in Equity

Council is currently undertaking an indexation revaluation of all asset classes which will result in a transfer to the asset revaluation reserve for the 2023/24 financial year, in line with Council's asset policies. The revaluation will be undertaken by Council staff in the 2023/24 financial year with the following two years being undertaken by external valuers.

Statement of Cash Flows

The Budget provides for an increase in cash held during 2025/26 of \$0.937 million. The underlying cash budget position will require continuous monitoring over the next few financial years. The impact of CPI on materials and services also impacts the cash balance at the end of the financial year.

Producing a balanced cash budget is one of the fundamental elements of meeting the Council Plan Objective 4 – Effective and sustainable financial management.

Statement of Capital Works

Council will be undertaking \$10.588 million worth of Capital Works projects during the 2025/26 financial year, with \$4.267 million of newly committed projects. \$6.321 million of the total expenditure relates to project funds that are expected to be carried forward from the 2024/25 financial year.

Of the capital works budget 95 per cent has been allocated to renewing and upgrading Council's existing infrastructure.

The remainder of the capital works program is for the delivery of new infrastructure within the municipality.

The Comprehensive Income Statement contains capital grants of \$6.244 million, monetary contributions of \$650,000. This is also supplemented by borrowings of \$500,000.

Details of the Capital Works program are included in the Statement of Capital Works report of the budget document.

Statement of Human Resources

The Statement of Human Resources has been prepared on the basis of Council's Gender Equity Plan and Resourcing Plan.

Council is proposing 157 full time equivalent position in the 2025/26 financial year. The total is made up of:

- 152 FTE staff establishment to provide the Council services.
- 5 FTE Capitalised labour

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk:

Financial sustainability - Failure to maintain our long-term financial sustainability

CONCLUSION

The draft 2025/26 Budget (incorporating the 4-year Budget) will be released for community feedback and submissions after the endorsement on 30 April 2025.

Community consultation will be undertaken from 1 May 2025 until 22 May 2025.

Submitters requesting to be heard in support of their written submission, will be heard by a Hearing of Council on Wednesday 4 June 2025, commencing at 6:00pm at the Maryborough Town Hall, if required.

The 2025/26 Budget will be considered for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held Wednesday, 25 June 2025 at 6.00pm.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Model Budget 2025-26 Master - 2025-04-24 **[4.2.1]**



Central Goldfields Shire Council Budget Report

2025-26



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Mayors and CEO's Introduction

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Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is for general guidance only. It is not professional advice and should not be used, relied upon or treated as a substitute for specific professional advice. Given the changing nature of laws, rules and regulations, and the inherent hazards of electronic communication, there may be delays, omissions or inaccuracies in information contained in this document.

The model budget, including financial statements, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this document has been accurate and complies with relevant Victorian legislation, each Council remains responsible to ensure that the budget they prepare is compliant with all statutory requirements.

Mayor and CEO's Introduction

We are proud to present the Central Goldfields Shire Council Draft Budget for 2025–2026 – a plan that reflects our shared commitment to delivering on community priorities, while ensuring responsible financial management and long-term sustainability.

This budget is about more than just numbers. It's about people – about creating the kind of Shire we all want to live in, now and into the future. We've listened to our community and worked hard to shape a budget that balances investment in important projects and services, with the need to manage our resources wisely. It has been developed with a clear focus on financial sustainability, community wellbeing, and the continued delivery of essential services and infrastructure for our Shire.

The Draft Budget forecasts a \$1.41 million surplus for 2025–2026, building upon the forecast surplus of \$723,000 for 2024–2025 and significantly reversing the \$5 million deficit recorded in 2023–2024. This positive financial outlook reflects Council's continued focus on efficiency, cost control, and long-term sustainability.

The capital works program totals \$10.58 million, with \$4.26 million in newly committed projects and \$6.32 million in carry forward works. Approximately 95% of this investment is allocated to renewing and upgrading existing infrastructure – a strong indicator of our commitment to asset stewardship and value for money.

The Draft Budget is shaped by a disciplined approach to expenditure, strategic investment in capital works, and a firm commitment to meeting the needs of our growing and changing community. It seeks to balance the realities of constrained revenue – including the state imposed 3% rate cap – with the demand for quality infrastructure, accessible services, and long-term financial health.

Importantly, this budget is also a reflection of community voices. Through our recent community engagement process, we heard from residents, community groups, and local businesses about what matters most. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who took the time to share their insights and aspirations. Your input has helped shape the direction of this budget and ensures it is grounded in local priorities.

We know the pressures that many in our community are facing. That's why this budget has been developed with care – to ensure we continue to deliver core services, invest in infrastructure, and support growth, all while maintaining a stable financial outlook. Responsible decision-making today helps us protect our capacity to deliver for future generations.

Alongside the essentials such as kerbside rubbish collection, we are focusing on improving and maintaining our existing assets and infrastructure with \$3.15 million allocated to our roads, drains, footpaths and bike paths.

Some of the key initiatives in this year's Draft Budget reflect direct community feedback and support our vision for a more vibrant, connected and resilient Shire:

Maryborough Outdoor Pool – We're committed to bringing this iconic and much-loved community facility back to life. Council has allocated \$450,000 for ongoing design works and will continue to advocate for funding at all levels of government to help deliver this important restoration project.

Deledio Recreation Reserve Pavilion – With a Council investment of \$1 million and thanks to support from both federal and state governments, a new, multi-use, modular-build pavilion will support local sport, events, and become a hub for community activities.

Princes Park Grandstand – This treasured local landmark will undergo important conservation and upgrade planning so it can continue to serve our sporting community and host major events including Energy Breakthrough and the Maryborough Highland Gathering.

Castlemaine–Maryborough Rail Trail – In partnership with Mount Alexander Shire Council, we're progressing the development of this 55km trail.

Tiny Towns – We will continue to deliver on the multiple projects identified as important for our residents across our townships.

Further highlights from the 2025/26 Capital Works program include:

- Continuation of the design works for the Goldfields Reservoir Dam stabilisation
- Delivery of the annual road resealing and asphaltting program
- Completion of Betterment works across of a number of impacted floodways
- Completion of TAC Road Safety Program including speed reductions, roundabouts and splitter islands (to be delivered over 2 years)
- Investment in IT systems including a new Asset Maintenance Management System to assist in providing better service to our community on managing the maintenance of our assets and facilities
- Maryborough Tennis Centre Multi Use Courts Development
- Princes Park Cricket Wicket Rebuild Project
- Landfill works – remediation of our closed land fills
- Transfer Station Infrastructure Upgrades
- Dog Park fencing at Jack Pascoe Reserve
- Public Conveniences – the installation of automatic locks on our toilets and sensors on our BBQs to help prevent vandalism and better schedule cleaning and maintenance
- Road to Recovery Projects including renewal of roads in Alma, Carisbrook and Maryborough
- Clunes Mt Cameron Road Renewal (pending on outcome of grant application)
- Aerodrome Regional Airport Program Round 4, including the implementation of more recommendations from the Aerodrome Business Case.

This Draft Budget shows what we can achieve when we work together – Council and community, side by side. It's about improving our facilities, supporting local people, and making decisions that keep our Shire financially strong and future focused. Together, through sound financial stewardship and strong community partnerships, we can continue to deliver for Central Goldfields today and into the future.

Thank you for being part of this important journey.

Cr Grace La Vella
Mayor

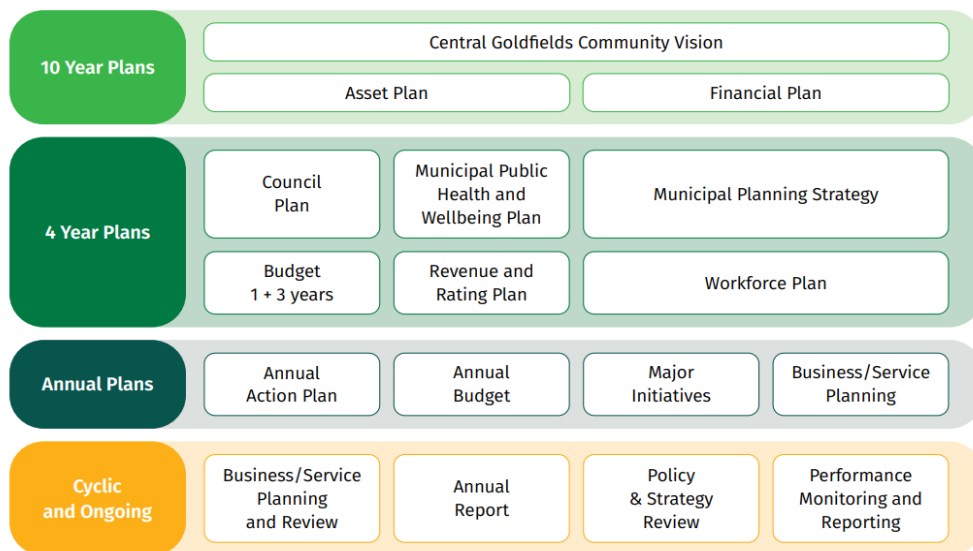
Sally Jones
Interim Chief Executive Officer

1. Link to the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework

This section describes how the Budget links to the achievement of the Community Vision and Council Plan within an overall integrated strategic planning and reporting framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Community Vision and Financial Plan), medium term (Council Plan, Workforce Plan, and Revenue and Rating Plan) and short term (Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Annual Report).

1.1 Legislative planning and accountability framework

The Budget is a rolling four-year plan that outlines the financial and non-financial resources that Council requires to achieve the strategic objectives described in the Council Plan. The diagram below depicts the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework that applies to local government in Victoria. At each stage of the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input. This is important to ensure transparency and accountability to both residents and ratepayers.



The timing of each component of the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework is critical to the successful achievement of the planned outcomes.

1.1.2 Key planning considerations

Service level planning

Although councils have a legal obligation to provide some services—such as animal management, local roads, food safety and statutory planning—most council services are not legally mandated, including some services closely associated with councils, such as libraries, building permits and sporting facilities. Further, over time, the needs and expectations of communities can change. Therefore councils need to have robust processes for service planning and review to ensure all services continue to provide value for money and are in line with community expectations. In doing so, councils should engage with communities to determine how to prioritise resources and balance service provision against other responsibilities such as asset maintenance and capital works. Community consultation needs to be in line with a council's adopted Community Engagement Policy and Public Transparency Policy.

1.2 Our purpose

Our Vision

To be an engaged, flourishing, lively and inclusive community.

Our mission

To seek, capture and develop opportunities to make our Shire a place of choice to live, work, visit and enjoy.

Our values

- * Focus on imperatives and goals
- * Value aspiration and achievement
- * Encourage innovation and lifelong learning
- * Embrace value-added teamwork and partnerships
- * Utilise our diversity to find better solutions

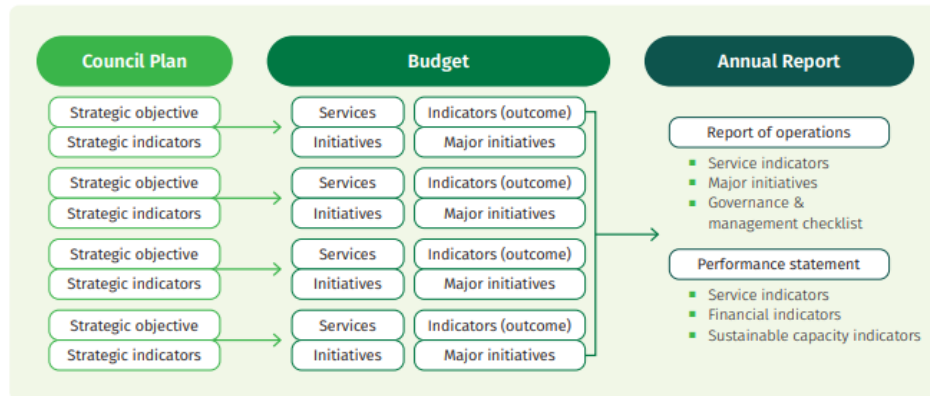
1.3 Strategic objectives

*"Council adopted the 2021 - 2025 Council Plan in October 2021. (New Council Plan 2025 - 2029 pending for adoption)
As part of the Council plan process, four strategic objectives were set out as detailed below*

Strategic Objective	Description
1 Our Community's Wellbeing	Strengthen and build inclusion and community intergenerational connections Nurture and celebrate creativity Support positive life journey development for all residents Encourage, support and facilitate healthy and safe communities Maximise volunteer efforts Value, celebrate and actively engage First Nations culture and people
2 Our Growing Economy	Retain, grow and attract our population Capitalise on tourism opportunities Support existing and new and emerging business and industry Develop a skilled and diverse workforce Strengthen digital infrastructure and capability
3 Our Spaces and Places	Provide engaging public spaces Provide infrastructure to meet community need Value and care for our heritage and culture assets Manage and reduce and reuse waste Care for the natural environment and take action on climate change
4 Leading Change	Actively engage, inform and build the leadership capacity of community members and organisations Provide financial sustainability and good governance Provide a safe, inclusive and supportive workplace Advocate and partner on matters of community importance

2. Services and service performance indicators

This section provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2025/26 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan. It also describes several initiatives and service performance outcome indicators for key areas of Council's operations. Council is required by legislation to identify major initiatives, initiatives and service performance outcome indicators in the Budget and report against them in their Annual Report to support transparency and accountability. The relationship between these accountability requirements in the Council Plan, the Budget and the Annual Report is shown below.



2.1 Our Community's Wellbeing

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24 Actual \$'000	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 Budget \$'000
Children and Family Services - comprising Family Day Care, Long Day Care, Kindergartens, Immunisation and Go Goldfields	Family Day Care. (Ceased June 2024) One contractor operating a family day care service at Avoca.	<i>Inc</i>	2,603	2,696	3,253
		<i>Exp</i>	3,010	2,894	3,569
		<i>Surplus / (deficit)</i>	(407)	(198)	(317)
	Long Day Care. 67 Place Long day care service. Kindergarten. 33 Place integrated kindergarten, offering 15 hours of 3 and 4 year old Kindergarten. Immunisation Provides a range of vaccination options that are convenient and offer Immunisation options for residents of our shire most at risk of vaccine- preventable disease. Go Goldfields A backbone team rooted in the community that provides strategic leadership, facilitates collaboration, and delivers evidence based programs and activities to enable every child in Central Goldfields to have every chance to grow up healthy, safe and confident.				
Maternal and Child Health Services	Provides universal access to MCH services and enhanced support for families including 10 key age and stage visits from birth to 3.5 years.	<i>Inc</i>	515	552	460
		<i>Exp</i>	704	671	669
		<i>Surplus / (deficit)</i>	(189)	(119)	(209)

Library Services	Maryborough Regional Library has locations in Dunolly and Maryborough. It also has outreach services to Talbot Community Library and an outreach service to housebound patrons. The library service offers a diverse range of resources, services and programming accessible to the Central Goldfields Shire community as well as those outside the shire. The library is owned and operated by Council.	<i>Inc</i>	184	184	171
		<i>Exp</i>	642	602	551
		<i>Surplus / (deficit)</i>	(458)	(418)	(380)
Arts and Culture	Council's services to arts and culture are through the Central Goldfields Art Gallery, located in Maryborough. The Gallery features a diverse program of regularly changing exhibitions, including works from the permanent collection, curated exhibitions and touring exhibitions as well as educational and public programs.	<i>Inc</i>	4	20	4
		<i>Exp</i>	289	312	297
		<i>Surplus / (deficit)</i>	(285)	(292)	(293)
Community Development	Partnering with individuals, community groups and community organisations to identify and support implementation of community priorities and activities.	<i>Inc</i>	239	308	59
		<i>Exp</i>	572	298	414
		<i>Surplus / (deficit)</i>	(333)	10	(355)
Emergency Management	Ensures compliance and effective delivery of obligations under the Local Government Act, Emergency Management Act, and state plans and policies. Delivery of the Municipal Emergency Resources Program (MERP).	<i>Inc</i>	280	269	60
		<i>Exp</i>	529	407	132
		<i>Surplus / (deficit)</i>	(249)	(138)	(72)
Recreation Services and Facilities Management	Provides recreation facilities and services which includes the provision of the Maryborough Sport and Leisure Centre, outdoor swimming pools, strategic support to sporting clubs and users, support for active sporting facilities and open space.	<i>Inc</i>	129	84	39
		<i>Exp</i>	980	999	1,031
		<i>Surplus / (deficit)</i>	(851)	(915)	(992)
Youth Services	Provides activities and programs through FReeZA, Engage!, L2P (ending 2025) and Children & Young People First Project (CYPFP) funded initiatives to enhance confidence, support safety, improve mental health, well being and build resilience.	<i>Inc</i>	147	148	88
		<i>Exp</i>	170	157	88
		<i>Surplus / (deficit)</i>	(23)	(9)	0
Compliance	Provides compliance and enforcement services to bring land use and development into compliance with the Planning and Environment Act and Central Goldfields Planning Scheme.	<i>Inc</i>	68	82	84
		<i>Exp</i>	350	526	580
		<i>Surplus / (deficit)</i>	(282)	(444)	(496)
Environmental Health and Sustainability	Provides a range of environmental health and public health services, education and the enforcement of relevant state legislation. Sustainability including Climate Action Plan and community consultation	<i>Inc</i>	71	120	71
		<i>Exp</i>	184	253	278
		<i>Surplus / (deficit)</i>	(113)	(133)	(207)
Local Laws	Enforcement and compliance of all Council local laws to ensure the management of domestic and livestock animals, protection of our built and natural environment, general amenity and general parking enforcement.	<i>Inc</i>	180	216	208
		<i>Exp</i>	313	212	240
		<i>Surplus / (deficit)</i>	(133)	4	(32)

Major Initiatives

- 1) Finalisation of the Open Space Strategy
- 2) Commencement of the Maryborough Tennis Courts renewal

Other Initiatives

- 3) Continued focus on Community Development through programs delivered by the Community Partnerships team
- 4) Supporting the Shire's Youth and Young People through delivery of various projects
- 5) Renewal of recreation facilities to provide improved equity across the municipality
- 6) Continue to support the community following the October 2022 floods through leadership including the Community Recovery Officer

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget
Libraries	Participation	9.50%	9.50%	9.50%
Aquatic Facilities	Utilisation	4.75	4.75	4.75
Animal Management	Health and Safety	0%	0%	0%
Food Safety	Health and Safety	100%	100%	100%
Maternal and Child Health	Participation	91.00%	90.00%	90.00%

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Libraries	Participation	Library membership (Percentage of the population that are registered library members)	[Number of registered library members / Population] x100
Aquatic Facilities	Utilisation	Utilisation of aquatic facilities. (Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of population)	Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Population
Animal Management	Health and safety	Animal management prosecutions. (Percentage of animal management prosecutions which are successful)	Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Total number of animal management prosecutions
Food safety	Health and safety	Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications. (Percentage of critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications that are followed up by Council)	[Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about food premises] x100
Maternal and Child Health	Participation	Participation in the MCH service. Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children. (Percentage of Aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of children who attend the MCH service / Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the financial year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100

2.2 Our Growing Economy

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24 Actual \$'000	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 Budget \$'000
Economic Development	Provide economic development services to the council and community to effectively identify and pursue the Shire's competitive advantages to facilitate economic development and employment opportunities.	<i>Inc</i>	13	75	-
		<i>Exp</i>	398	253	142
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(385)	(178)	(142)
Tourism and Events	Tourism and Events Services works to: -attract, support, and ensure compliance of events that contribute to the visitor economy and community outcomes; deliver citizens events including Australia Day and Citizenship Ceremonies. -Support and promote volunteering for Council services and programs as well as across the community. -Plan and provide strategic initiatives to strengthen local tourism, in line with local and regional priorities	<i>Inc</i>	82	158	111
		<i>Exp</i>	605	1,142	676
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(523)	(984)	(565)
Energy Breakthrough	Energy Breakthrough is Council's largest annual event and is delivered in partnership with Country Education Partnership. The event attracts around 15,000 over the five-day event with over \$3.66 million injected into the local economy. The event supports participation of 3,500 students from around local, state and interstate schools.	<i>Inc</i>	403	440	353
		<i>Exp</i>	682	603	577
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(279)	(163)	(224)
Building Services	Provide building control services to administer and enforce the Building Act and building regulations.	<i>Inc</i>	84	106	78
		<i>Exp</i>	220	295	254
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(136)	(189)	(176)
Statutory Planning	Provides the full range of statutory planning services and administration of the Planning and Environment Act as it applies to all public and private land within the Shire.	<i>Inc</i>	288	203	176
		<i>Exp</i>	953	640	598
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(665)	(437)	(422)
Strategic Planning	Provides strategic land use planning to assess and manager future land uses, manage land use change and population and economic growth.	<i>Inc</i>	271	224	70
		<i>Exp</i>	346	314	301
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(75)	(90)	(231)
VicRoads Agency	Provides a range of VicRoads services on behalf of VicRoads, from the Nolan Street building	<i>Inc</i>	274	256	336
		<i>Exp</i>	227	230	246
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	47	26	90

Major Initiatives

- 1) Urban Residential Land Opportunities review
- 2) Finalisation of the Maryborough Heritage review
- 3) Continuation of the Maryborough, Carisbrook, Flagstaff Land Use Planning Framework

Other Initiatives

- 4) Delivery of Tiny Towns projects subject to approval of grant funding
- 5) Delivery of a Central Goldfields Shire Official Visitor Guide

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget
Statutory Planning	Decision making	100%	100%	100%

2.3 Our Spaces and Places

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
			Actual \$'000	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
Asset Management	Provides data collection, analysis and planning for the maintenance and renewal of all Council owned and managed infrastructure and assets. This is all facets of Infrastructure and Operations management of Council Assets including any external consultants such as valuers, inspections and condition assessments	<i>Inc</i>	15	19	129
		<i>Exp</i>	1,588	1,440	1,734
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(1,573)	(1,421)	(1,605)
Building Maintenance	Undertakes maintenance works on Council owned and managed buildings, and other built structures such as rotundas, BBQ shelters, pedestrian underpasses, and playgrounds.	<i>Inc</i>	11	4	1
		<i>Exp</i>	375	301	285
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(364)	(297)	(284)
Depot	Provides facilities and workshops to support the activities of Council's outdoor operations.	<i>Inc</i>	48	26	30
		<i>Exp</i>	126	115	107
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(78)	(89)	(77)
Drainage	This service maintains and renews the drainage systems and networks throughout the Shire, and ensures compliance to the required standards for new land developments.	<i>Inc</i>	-	-	-
		<i>Exp</i>	62	55	61
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(62)	(55)	(61)
Environmental Management	Environmental monitoring and implementation of services to control the spread of weeds and pests in Council controlled areas including: roadsides, nature strips, reserves, drains	<i>Inc</i>	62	39	36
		<i>Exp</i>	96	42	54
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(34)	(3)	(18)
Roads Maintenance	Provides the maintenance, construction and reconstruction of Council's transport associated infrastructure assets.	<i>Inc</i>	3	-	1
		<i>Exp</i>	1,793	1,844	1,803
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(1,790)	(1,844)	(1,802)
Parks and Gardens	Provides park, gardens and oval maintenance and improvements to provide an attractive public open space and recreational environment for our community.	<i>Inc</i>	-	-	-
		<i>Exp</i>	1,395	1,081	1,101
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(1,395)	(1,081)	(1,101)
Plant	Supplies and maintains vehicle and plant to support Council's operations.	<i>Inc</i>	-	-	-
		<i>Exp</i>	(508)	(602)	(800)
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	508	602	800
Public Amenities	Provides cleaning and servicing to public amenity blocks.	<i>Inc</i>	-	-	-
		<i>Exp</i>	680	438	537
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(680)	(438)	(537)
Waste Management	Provides all waste management, policy development and education services from kerbside bin collection, transfer station management and management of closed land fill sites.	<i>Inc</i>	291	273	329
		<i>Exp</i>	3,123	3,774	3,932
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(2,832)	(3,501)	(3,603)

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget
Roads	Condition	99.11%	98.00%	98.00%
Waste Management	Waste Diversion	45.29%	45.00%	45.00%

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Roads	Condition	Sealed local roads below the intervention level (percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal)	[Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100
Waste management	Waste diversion	Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill. (Percentage of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins that is diverted from landfill)	[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100

Major Initiatives

- 1) Review of Kerbside Collection service to align with new State Government requirements.
- 2) Road Renewal program including Roads to Recovery and Transport Accident Commission funding

Other Initiatives

- 3) Planned Building upgrades schedule
- 4) Drainage works including betterment works funded by Federal Government

2.4 Leading Change**Services**

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24 Actual \$'000	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 Budget \$'000
Community Engagement	The purpose of Council's Community Engagement Team is to provide our community with clear, transparent and targeted communications and engagement opportunities that are bottom up, planned and accessible to all community members.	<i>Inc</i>	-	-	-
		<i>Exp</i>	409	457	571
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(409)	(457)	(571)
Customer Service	Provides a full range of Customer Service functions to face to face customers and via phone with a high focus on the customer's needs as the first point of contact.	<i>Inc</i>	-	-	-
		<i>Exp</i>	294	308	319
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(294)	(308)	(319)
Governance Property & Risk	Provides the governance framework for the organisation including coordination of Council meetings and support and oversight of compliance with the Local Government Act, privacy and freedom of information. Also includes governance, property, risk management and procurement functions.	<i>Inc</i>	253	132	149
		<i>Exp</i>	1,453	1,746	1,857
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(1,200)	(1,614)	(1,708)
Shire Management	Provides strategic leadership to the organisation, implementation of Council decisions and representation and advocacy on key issues and projects for the Shire.	<i>Inc</i>	-	-	-
		<i>Exp</i>	1,143	1,188	1,203
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(1,143)	(1,188)	(1,203)

Finance	Provides a full suite of financial management, including corporate financial planning, monitoring and reporting for both internal and external customers. The team also is responsible for accounts payable, accounts receivable, asset financial management, cashflow management, treasury and borrowings and management of corporate credit cards.	<i>Inc</i>	606	-	37	153
		<i>Exp</i>	2,015		1,447	1,011
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(1,409)		(1,484)	(858)
	The rates team is responsible for the issuance and administration of annual rates notices across the shire. The team also ensures compliance with the annual rate cap, and supports the Council elections on a four year basis					
Human Resources	The People and Culture team through collaboration and partnerships focus on creating a positive workplace where employees feel safe, supported, can reach their full potential, are actively engaged and inspired by their employment experience and the work that they do. We achieve this by providing authoritative advice on people matters to ensure good governance and realization of a skilled and diverse workforce.	<i>Inc</i>	-	-	-	-
		<i>Exp</i>	1,127		1,088	914
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(1,127)		(1,088)	(914)
Information Management	Provides lifecycle management of all information held by Council.	<i>Inc</i>	-	-	-	-
		<i>Exp</i>	145		156	205
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(145)		(156)	(205)
Information Technology	Provides the information communication technology platform that enables the organisation to interact electronically with all of its customers.	<i>Inc</i>	-	-	-	-
		<i>Exp</i>	1,483		1,309	1,357
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(1,483)		(1,309)	(1,357)
Nolan Street Offices	Provides the operations of heating, lighting and cooling the Nolan Street offices, and the office needs to maintain a function office.	<i>Inc</i>	349		608	529
		<i>Exp</i>	613		663	606
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	(264)		(55)	(77)
Grants Commission	Financial Assistance Grants distributed by the Victoria Grants Commission.	<i>Inc</i>	220		5,344	5,450
		<i>Exp</i>	-		-	-
		<i>Surplus/ (deficit)</i>	220		5,344	5,450

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget
Governance	Satisfaction	45%	50%	50%

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Governance	Consultation and engagement	Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement. (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council)	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement

Major Initiatives

- 1) Rural Council Transformation Project which includes the upgrade of various Council systems
- 2) Council plans and strategies for the coming four (4) years as legislated, ie Council Plan and Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Plan

Other Initiatives

- 3) Cyber Security Strategy

2.5 Reconciliation with budgeted operating result

	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Expenditure	Income / Revenue
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Our Community's Wellbeing	(3,353)	7,849	4,497
Our Growing Economy	(1,670)	2,794	1,124
Our Spaces and Places	(8,288)	8,814	526
Leading Change	(1,762)	8,043	6,281
Total	(15,073)	27,500	12,428
Expenses added in:			
Depreciation	9,152		
Finance costs	110		
Others	-		
Surplus/(Deficit) before funding sources	(24,334)		
Funding sources added in:			
Rates and charges revenue	14,469		
Waste charge revenue	5,036		
Capital Grants	6,244		
Total funding sources	25,749		
Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,415		

3. Financial Statements

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The budget information for the year 2025/26 has been supplemented with projections to 2028/29

This section includes the following financial statements prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Comprehensive Income Statement
Balance Sheet
Statement of Changes in Equity
Statement of Cash Flows
Statement of Capital Works
Statement of Human Resources

Comprehensive Income Statement

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
		2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000
Income / Revenue						
Rates and charges	4.1.1	18,421	19,505	20,090	20,693	21,314
Statutory fees and fines	4.1.2	568	514	529	545	562
User fees	4.1.3	1,252	1,527	1,572	1,620	1,668
Grants - operating	4.1.4	10,055	9,514	9,799	10,093	10,396
Grants - capital	4.1.4	5,793	6,244	4,000	3,379	2,579
Contributions - monetary	4.1.5	291	204	204	204	204
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		14	-	-	-	-
Other income	4.1.6	744	670	690	711	732
Total income / revenue		37,138	38,177	36,885	37,245	37,454
Expenses						
Employee costs	4.1.7	15,551	16,175	16,660	17,160	17,675
Materials and services	4.1.8	12,006	10,859	11,185	11,521	11,866
Depreciation	4.1.9	8,340	9,090	9,954	10,900	11,935
Depreciation - right of use assets	4.1.11	61	61	61	61	61
Provision for bad debts		1	1	1	1	1
Borrowing costs		102	109	124	173	178
Other expenses	4.1.12	354	466	480	495	510
Total expenses		36,415	36,762	38,466	40,310	42,226
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		723	1,415	(1,581)	(3,066)	(4,772)
Other comprehensive income						
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods						
Net asset revaluation gain /(loss)		4,303	22,683	23,752	4,767	4,767
Total other comprehensive income		4,303	22,683	23,752	4,767	4,767
Total comprehensive result		5,026	24,098	22,171	1,702	(5)

Balance Sheet

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

		Forecast	Budget	Projections		
		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
NOTES		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Assets						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		1,032	1,969	3,318	4,603	4,434
Trade and other receivables		3,104	3,197	3,293	3,392	3,494
Other financial assets		783	783	806	831	856
Inventories		15	15	15	15	15
Prepayments		400	400	412	388	388
Other assets		13	13	13	14	14
Total current assets	4.2.1	5,347	6,377	7,859	9,243	9,201
Non-current assets						
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment		430,311	453,656	475,031	476,744	476,701
Right-of-use assets	4.2.4	299	255	211	167	123
Total non-current assets	4.2.1	430,610	453,911	475,242	476,911	476,824
Total assets		435,957	460,288	483,101	486,154	486,025
Liabilities						
Current liabilities						
Trade and other payables		5,666	5,835	6,011	6,191	6,377
Trust funds and deposits		680	700	721	743	765
Provisions		1,221	1,258	1,295	1,334	1,374
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	61	61	61	61	35
Total current liabilities	4.2.2	7,628	7,854	8,088	8,329	8,551
Non-current liabilities						
Provisions		2,305	2,374	2,445	2,519	2,594
Interest-bearing liabilities	4.2.3	2,089	2,089	2,489	3,589	3,204
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	218	157	96	35	-
Total non-current liabilities	4.2.2	4,612	4,620	5,030	6,143	5,798
Total liabilities		12,240	12,475	13,119	14,472	14,349
Net assets		423,717	447,813	469,982	471,682	471,675
Equity						
Accumulated surplus		129,384	130,799	129,219	126,153	121,381
Reserves		294,337	317,020	340,771	345,539	350,306
Total equity		423,721	447,819	469,990	471,692	471,687

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

		Total	Accumulated Surplus	Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves
	NOTES	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2025 Forecast					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		418,695	128,661	289,328	706
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		723	723	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		4,303	-	4,303	-
Balance at end of the financial year		423,721	129,384	293,631	706
2026 Budget					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		423,721	129,384	293,631	706
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		1,415	1,415	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		22,683	-	22,683	-
Balance at end of the financial year	4.3.2	447,819	130,799	316,314	706
2027					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		447,819	130,799	316,314	706
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(1,581)	(1,581)	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		23,752	-	23,752	-
Balance at end of the financial year		469,990	129,219	340,065	706
2028					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		469,990	129,219	340,065	706
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(3,066)	(3,066)	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		4,767	-	4,767	-
Balance at end of the financial year		471,692	126,153	344,833	706
2029					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		471,692	126,153	344,833	706
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(4,772)	(4,772)	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		4,767	-	4,767	-
Balance at end of the financial year		471,687	121,381	349,600	706

Statement of Cash Flows

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	Notes	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
		Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities						
Rates and charges		16,947	17,945	18,483	19,038	19,609
Statutory fees and fines		568	514	529	545	562
User fees		1,252	1,527	1,572	1,620	1,668
Grants - operating		10,055	9,514	9,799	10,093	10,396
Grants - capital		5,793	6,244	4,000	3,379	2,579
Contributions - monetary		291	204	204	204	204
Interest received		65	80	82	85	87
Other receipts		679	590	608	626	645
Employee costs		(15,551)	(16,175)	(16,660)	(17,160)	(17,675)
Materials and services		(12,006)	(10,859)	(11,185)	(11,521)	(11,866)
Other payments		(354)	(466)	(480)	(495)	(510)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	4.4.1	7,740	9,116	6,952	6,414	5,699
Cash flows from investing activities						
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(7,282)	(8,470)	(6,578)	(4,571)	(5,305)
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	4.4.2	(7,282)	(8,470)	(6,578)	(4,571)	(5,305)
Cash flows from financing activities						
Finance costs		(102)	(109)	(124)	(173)	(178)
Proceeds from borrowings		-	500	1,350	-	-
Repayment of borrowings		-	(100)	(250)	(385)	(385)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	4.4.3	(102)	291	976	(558)	(563)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents		356	937	1,350	1,285	(169)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		676	1,032	1,969	3,318	4,603
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		1,032	1,969	3,318	4,603	4,434

Statement of Capital Works

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property						
Land improvements		1,574	4,921	2,918	814	291
Total land		1,574	4,921	2,918	814	291
Buildings		1,822	497	1,156	471	1,027
Total buildings		1,822	497	1,156	471	1,027
Total property		3,396	5,418	4,074	1,285	1,318
Plant and equipment						
Plant, machinery and equipment		862	-	139	461	378
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		-	-	227	440	445
Computers and telecommunications		542	572	-	-	-
Total plant and equipment		1,404	572	366	901	823
Infrastructure						
Roads		3,233	3,988	2,350	2,608	2,457
Bridges		250	350	441	117	461
Footpaths and cycleways		240	-	192	196	200
Drainage		362	-	327	242	588
Waste management		-	-	-	33	34
Parks, open space and streetscapes		5	-	117	119	322
Aerodromes		183	260	-	-	-
Other infrastructure		29	-	356	213	428
Total infrastructure		4,302	4,598	3,783	3,528	4,490
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	9,102	10,588	8,223	5,714	6,631
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure		1,812	508	366	901	823
Asset renewal expenditure		5,663	7,917	7,857	4,813	5,808
Asset expansion expenditure		-	-	-	-	-
Asset upgrade expenditure		1,627	2,163	-	-	-
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	9,102	10,588	8,223	5,714	6,631
Funding sources represented by:						
Grants		3,999	6,244	4,000	3,379	2,579
Contributions		345	-	-	-	-
Council cash		4,758	3,844	2,873	2,335	4,052
Borrowings		-	500	1,350	-	-
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	9,102	10,588	8,223	5,714	6,631 -

Statement of Human Resources

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Staff expenditure					
Employee costs - operating	15,551	16,175	16,660	17,160	17,675
Employee costs - capital	739	1,365	1,406	1,449	1,492
Total staff expenditure	16,290	17,540	18,066	18,608	19,167
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Staff numbers					
Employees	157	157	154	155	155
Total staff numbers	157	157	154	155	155

A summary of human resources expenditure categorised according to the organisational structure of Council is included below:

Department	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Comprises			
		Permanent		Casual	Temporary
		Full Time \$'000	Part time \$'000		
Executive and Community Engagement	1,529	1,439	90	-	-
Infrastructure Assets and Planning	5,274	4,354	920	-	-
Community Wellbeing	6,467	1,984	2,471	2,012	-
Corporate Performance	2,905	2,360	545	-	-
Total permanent staff expenditure	16,175	10,137	4,026	2,012	-
Capitalised labour costs	1,365				
Total expenditure	17,540				

A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Council staff in relation to the above expenditure is included below:

Department	Budget 2025/26	Comprises			
		Permanent		Casual	Temporary
		Full Time	Part time		
Executive and Community Engagement	10	9	1	-	-
Infrastructure Assets and Planning	69	55	14	-	-
Community Wellbeing	52	20	30	2	-
Corporate Performance	26	19	7	-	-
Total staff	157	104	51	2	-

**Summary of Planned Human Resources Expenditure
For the four years ending 30 June 2029**

	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000
Executive and Community Engagement				
Permanent - Full time	1,439	1,482	1,527	1,572
Women	1,134	1,168	1,203	1,239
Men	305	314	324	333
Persons of self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	90	93	95	98
Women	90	93	95	98
Men	0	0	0	0
Persons of self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Total Executive and Community Engagement	1,529	1,575	1,622	1,671
Infrastructure Assets and Planning				
Permanent - Full time	4,354	4,485	4,619	4,758
Women	1,030	1,061	1,093	1,126
Men	3,324	3,424	3,526	3,632
Persons of self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	920	948	976	1,005
Women	565	582	599	617
Men	355	366	377	388
Persons of self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Total Infrastructure Assets and Planning	5,274	5,432	5,595	5,763
Community Wellbeing				
Permanent - Full time	1,984	2,044	2,105	2,168
Women	1,740	1,792	1,846	1,901
Men	122	126	129	133
Persons of self-described gender	122	126	129	133
Permanent - Part time	2,471	2,545	2,621	2,700
Women	2,296	2,365	2,436	2,509
Men	175	180	186	191
Persons of self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Total Community Wellbeing	4,455	4,589	4,726	4,868
Corporate Performance				
Permanent - Full time	2,360	2,431	2,504	2,579
Women	1,825	1,880	1,936	1,994
Men	535	551	568	585
Persons of self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	545	561	578	596
Women	402	414	426	439
Men	143	147	152	156
Persons of self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Total Corporate Performance	2,905	2,992	3,082	3,174
Casuals, temporary and other expenditure	2,012	2,072	2,134	2,199
Capitalised labour costs	1,365	1,406	1,449	1,492
Total staff expenditure	17,540	18,066	18,608	19,167

	2025/26 FTE	2026/27 FTE	2027/28 FTE	2028/29 FTE
Executive and Community Engagement				
Permanent - Full time	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Women	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Men	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Persons of self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent - Part time	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Women	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Men	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Persons of self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Executive and Community Engagement	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7
Infrastructure Assets and Planning				
Permanent - Full time	50.7	50.7	50.7	50.7
Women	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Men	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.7
Persons of self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent - Part time	13.8	13.8	13.8	13.8
Women	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2
Men	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
Persons of self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Infrastructure Assets and Planning	64.5	64.5	64.5	64.5
Community Wellbeing				
Permanent - Full time	20.2	18.2	18.2	18.2
Women	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2
Men	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Persons of self-described gender	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent - Part time	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5
Women	27.4	27.4	27.4	27.4
Men	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Persons of self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Community Wellbeing	49.7	47.7	47.7	47.7
Corporate Performance				
Permanent - Full time	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2
Women	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2
Men	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Persons of self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent - Part time	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
Women	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Men	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Persons of self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Corporate Performance	26.3	26.3	26.3	26.3
Casuals and temporary staff	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.5
Capitalised labour	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0
Total staff numbers	157	154	155	155

4. Notes to the financial statements

This section presents detailed information on material components of the financial statements. Council needs to assess which components are material, considering the dollar amounts and nature of these components.

4.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

4.1.1 Rates and charges

Rates and charges are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

As per the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to have a Revenue and Rating Plan which is a four year plan for how Council will generate income to deliver the Council Plan, program and services and capital works commitments over a four-year period.

In developing the Budget, rates and charges were identified as an important source of revenue. Planning for future rate increases has therefore been an important component of the financial planning process. The Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) sets out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2025/26 the FGRS cap has been set at 3.00%. The cap applies to both general rates and municipal charges and is calculated on the basis of council's average rates and charges.

The level of required rates and charges has been considered in this context, with reference to Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for the community.

To achieve these objectives while maintaining service levels and a strong capital expenditure program, the average general rate and the municipal charge will increase by 3.00% in line with the rate cap.

Waste costs are recovered on a cost neutral basis and an increase of 12% has been included in the 2025/26 budget. Waste charges do not form part of the rate cap as outlined above.

This will raise total rates and charges for 2025/26 to \$19.48m

4.1.1(a) The reconciliation of the total rates and charges to the Comprehensive Income Statement is as follows:

	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 Budget \$'000	Change \$'000	%
General rates*	12,166	12,571	405	3.33%
Municipal charge*	1,681	1,684	3	0.19%
Service rates and charges	4,502	5,036	534	11.87%
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments**	0	114	114	100.00%
Interest on rates and charges	72	100	28	38.82%
Total rates and charges	18,421	19,505	1,084	5.89%

*These items are subject to the rate cap established under the FGRS

**Supplementary rates are raised each year with new or updated properties

4.1.1(b) The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under section 158 of the Act for each type or class of land compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2024/25 cents/\$CIV*	2025/26 cents/\$CIV*	Change
General rate for rateable residential properties - Maryborough*	0.003105	0.003261	5.02%
General rate for rateable residential properties - Other*	0.002807	0.002935	4.57%
General rate for rateable vacant land properties*	0.003943	0.004141	5.02%
General rate for rateable commercial properties - Maryborough*	0.004968	0.005218	5.02%
General rate for rateable commercial properties - Other*	0.004373	0.004435	1.43%
General rate for rateable industrial properties*	0.003416	0.003478	1.83%
General rate for rateable farm properties*	0.002484	0.002609	5.02%

*Rates in the dollar is subject to change based on final valuations. CIV was used for valuation basis.

4.1.1(c) The estimated total amount to be raised by general rates in relation to each type or class of land, and the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	Change	
			\$'000	%
Residential - Maryborough	4,700	4,720	20	0.43%
Residential - Other	2,837	3,000	163	5.73%
Vacant Land	607	641	35	5.71%
Commercial - Maryborough	818	854	36	4.39%
Commercial - Other	127	142	14	11.17%
Industrial	190	208	18	9.61%
Farm	2,886	3,006	119	4.14%
Total amount to be raised by general rates	12,166	12,571	405	3.33%

4.1.1(d) The number of assessments in relation to each type or class of land, and the total number of assessments, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2024/25 Number	2025/26 Number	Change	
			Number	%
Residential - Maryborough	4,133	4,172	39	0.94%
Residential - Other	2,399	2,411	12	0.50%
Vacant Land	874	862	12	-1.37%
Commercial - Maryborough	243	242	1	-0.41%
Commercial - Other	83	82	1	-1.20%
Industrial	114	114	-	0.00%
Farm	1,032	1,039	7	0.68%
Total number of assessments	8,878	8,922	44	0.50%

4.1.1(e) The basis of valuation to be used is the Capital Improved Value (CIV)

4.1.1(f) The estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	Change	
			\$'000	%
Residential - Maryborough	1,486,988	1,447,350	39,638	-2.67%
Residential - Other	1,007,445	1,022,182	14,737	1.46%
Vacant Land	155,534	154,892	642	-0.41%
Commercial - Maryborough	164,970	163,729	1,241	-0.75%
Commercial - Other	29,497	31,916	2,419	8.20%
Industrial	55,459	59,816	4,357	7.86%
Farm	1,150,273	1,152,217	1,944	0.17%
Total value of land	4,050,166	4,032,102	18,064	-0.45%

4.1.1(g) The municipal charge under Section 159 of the Act compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2024/25 \$	Per Rateable Property 2025/26 \$	Change	
			\$	%
Municipal	202	202	-	0.00%

4.1.1(h) The estimated total amount to be raised by municipal charges compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	2024/25 \$	2025/26 \$	Change	
			\$	%
Municipal	1,681	1,684	3	0.19%

4.1.1(i) The rate or unit amount to be levied for each type of service rate or charge under Section 162 of the Act compared with the previous financial year and detailed disclosure of the actual service/s rendered for the amount levied

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2024/25 \$	Per Rateable Property 2025/26 \$	Change	
			\$	%
Standard Garbage Charge	202	203	1	0.50%
Non-Standard Garbage Charge	346	347	2	0.50%
Waste Management Fee	176	237	61	35.00%
Recycling Charge	181	182	1	0.50%
Green Waste Service (optional)	91	91	0	0.50%
Total	995	1,060	66	6.59%

4.1.1(j) The estimated total amount to be raised by each type of service rate or charge, and the estimated total amount to be raised by service rates and charges, compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	2024/25 \$	2025/26 \$	Change	
			\$	%
Standard Garbage Charge	1,191	1,180	11	-0.95%
Non-Standard Garbage Charge	369	374	5	1.38%
Waste Management Fee	1,475	2,012	537	36.38%
Recycling Charge	1,243	1,259	16	1.25%
Green Waste Service (optional)	188	212	24	12.95%
Total	4,466	5,036	570	12.77%

4.1.1(k) The estimated total amount to be raised by all rates and charges compared with the previous financial year

	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	Change	
			\$'000	%
Total amount to be raised by general rates	12,166	12,571	405	3.33%
Total amount to be raised by the municipal charge	1,681	1,684	3	0.19%
Total amount to be raised by waste charges	4,466	5,036	570	12.77%
Total Rates and charges	18,313	19,292	979	5.34%

4.1.1(l) Fair Go Rates System Compliance

Central Goldfields Shire Council is required to comply with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS). The table below details the budget assumptions consistent with the requirements of the Fair Go Rates System.

	2024/25	2025/26
Total Rates	\$ 12,165,839	\$ 12,571,041
Number of rateable properties	8,878	8,922
Base Average Rate	\$ 1,370.34	\$ 1,408.99
Maximum Rate Increase (set by the State Government)	2.75%	3.00%
Capped Average Rate	\$ 1,559.68	\$ 1,597.77
Maximum General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	\$ 13,846,839	\$ 14,255,317
Budgeted General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	\$ 13,846,839	\$ 14,255,317
Budgeted Supplementary Rates	\$ 39	\$ 113,666
Budgeted Total Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	\$ 13,846,878	\$ 14,368,983

4.1.1(m) Any significant changes that may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges

There are no known significant changes which may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges. However, the total amount to be raised by rates and charges may be affected by:

- The making of supplementary valuations (2025/26: estimated \$113,666 and 2024/25: \$39)
- The variation of returned levels of value (e.g. valuation appeals)
- Changes of use of land such that rateable land becomes non-rateable land and vice versa
- Changes of use of land such that residential land becomes business land and vice versa.

4.1.1(n) Differential rates

- Residential Maryborough rate of 100% (0.3261 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable residential properties situated within the Maryborough District boundary
- Residential Other rate of 90% (0.2935 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable residential properties situated outside the Maryborough District boundary
- Vacant Land rate of 127% (0.4142 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable vacant land properties
- Commercial Maryborough rate of 160% (0.5218 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable commercial properties situated within the Maryborough District boundary
- Commercial Other rate of 136% (0.4435 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable commercial properties situated outside the Maryborough District boundary
- Industrial rate of 107% (0.3479 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable industrial properties
- Farm Land rate of 80% (0.2609 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable farm properties

4.1.2 Statutory fees and fines

	Forecast 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change	
			\$'000	%
Infringements and costs*	56	55 -	0	-0.79%
Land Information and Building Certificate Fees	17	15 -	2	-11.86%
Permits**	117	97 -	21	-17.64%
Registrations	197	183 -	14	-7.27%
Town planning fees	176	161 -	15	-8.60%
Other	4	3 -	1	-32.28%
Total statutory fees and fines	568	514 -	54	-9.52%

* Increase in fines as per Domestic Animals Act 1994.

** Reduction in building permit applications.

4.1.3 User fees

	Forecast 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change	
			\$'000	%
Childcare*	471	642	171	36.29%
Caravan Park Fees	89	90	1	1.24%
Transfer Station**	109	109 -	0	-0.03%
VicRoads Agency	235	300	65	27.59%
Energy Breakthrough	166	172	7	3.93%
Hire Fees***	76	95	19	24.89%
Immunisation	15	18	3	20.00%
Other	91	100	9	9.89%
Total user fees	1,252	1,527	274	21.91%

* Family Day Care service ceased and Child Care Centre service reviewed

** Two new revenue stream - Transfer Station Scrap Metal and Container Deposit Scheme

*** Tullaroop Leisure Centre Hire Fees

4.1.4 Grants

Grants are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

	Forecast	Budget	Change	
	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	\$'000	%
Grants were received in respect of the following:				
Summary of grants				
Commonwealth funded grants	11,378	12,271	893	8%
State funded grants	4,470	3,486 -	984	-22%
Total grants received	15,848	15,757 -	91	-1%
(a) Operating Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Financial Assistance Grants	5,139	5,450	311	6%
Family and Children	1,721	2,521	801	47%
Recurrent - State Government				
Community	12	-	12	-100%
Community Safety	256	153 -	103	-40%
Family and Children	581	369 -	211	-36%
Library	165	165	-	0%
MCH	419	330 -	89	-21%
School Crossing	55	55	-	0%
Youth	141	86 -	56	-40%
Total recurrent grants	8,489	9,130	641	8%
Non-recurrent - State Government				
Community	837	333 -	504	-60%
Family and children	9	49	40	472%
Flood	366	-	366	-100%
Go Goldfields	197	-	197	-100%
Library	75	-	75	-100%
Youth	83	2 -	81	-98%
Total non-recurrent grants	1,566	384 -	1,182	-75%
Total operating grants	10,055	9,514 -	541	-5%
(b) Capital Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Roads to recovery	726	1,263	537	74%
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	1,412	-	1,412	-100%
Total recurrent grants	2,138	1,263 -	875	-41%
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Aerodrome	30	85	55	187%
Deledio Recreation Reserve Pavilion	-	1,000	1,000	100%
Flood Works	950	300 -	650	-68%
Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP)	-	768	768	100%
TAC Road Safety Program	1,400	883 -	517	-37%
Non-recurrent - State Government				
Carisbrook Drainage Mitigation Levee	92	-	92	-100%
Compost SV	22	-	22	-100%
Deledio Recreation Reserve Pavilion	200	900	700	350%
Dogpark	-	100	100	100%
Energy Breakthrough	106	-	106	-100%
Goldfields Reservoir BBQ	82	7 -	76	-92%
Goldfields Reservoir Dam Stabilisation	259	-	259	-100%
Heritage Works	240	-	240	-100%
Maryborough Tennis Centre Court Redevelopment	23	240	217	943%
Princes Park Cricket Wicket Rebuild	-	140	140	100%
Rural Council Transformation Program	2	-	2	-100%
Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Round 2	-	300	300	100%
Tiny Towns	249	258	9	4%
Total non-recurrent grants	3,655	4,981	1,325	36%
Total capital grants	5,793	6,244	451	8%
Total Grants	15,848	15,757 -	91	-1%

4.1.5 Contributions

	Forecast 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Monetary*	291	204 -	87	-29.80%
Total contributions	291	204 -	87	-29.80%

*New kindergarten contribution.

4.1.6 Other income

	Forecast 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Energy Breakthrough (Donations/Sponsorships/Entry fees)*	151	146 -	5	-3.50%
Interest	65	80	15	23.90%
Other	6	3 -	3	-47.66%
Volunteer Services**	504	411 -	93	-18.43%
Rental	19	30	11	56.85%
Total other income	744	670 -	75	-10.03%

* Increased sponsorship for the Energy Breakthrough event.

** No further funding for the L2P program and the reduced revenue for the Aged Care volunteer service.

4.1.7 Employee costs

	Forecast 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Wages and salaries	12,240	13,245	1,005.25	8.21%
WorkCover	891	765	(126.26)	-14.17%
Superannuation	1,703	1,553	(149.99)	-8.81%
Long Service Leave	179	162	(17.22)	-9.62%
Volunteer Services	468	380	(88.32)	-18.86%
Fringe Benefits Tax	69	70	0.57	0.82%
Total employee costs	15,551	16,175	624.04	4.01%

4.1.8 Materials and services

	Forecast 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Contractors*	8,180	7,897 -	283	-3.46%
Materials*	2,717	2,169 -	548	-20.17%
Event Support, grants and contributions**	1,109	793 -	316	-28.47%
Total materials and services	12,006	10,859 -	1,147	-9.55%

* Decrease in both Contractor and Materials due to the removal of election expenses, external IT support to be performed in-house and reduced IT software, licensing and communication expenditure.

** Grant funded operating projects completed, Healthy Loddon, Go Goldfields, Land Use Framework, L2P Program, Live4Life Program, Vichealth LG Partnership.

4.1.9 Depreciation

	Forecast 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Property*	1,402	1,638	236	16.81%
Plant & equipment**	412	800	388	94.04%
Infrastructure	6,273	6,577	304	4.84%
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings***	252	76 -	176	-70.00%
Total depreciation	8,340	9,090	751	9.00%

* Comprehensive revaluation to be undertaken for property in the 2025/26 financial year.

** Increase due to reviewed of expected life in Jun 2024 plus new asset purchased and capitalised

*** Majority asset fully depreciated in financial year 2024/25

4.1.10 Depreciation - Right of use assets

	Forecast 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Right of use assets	61	61	-	0.00%
Total depreciation - right of use assets	61	61	-	0.00%

4.1.11 Other expenses

	Forecast 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Councillor allowances and expenses	272	356	85	31.08%
Auditor remuneration - internal auditor	32	50	18	54.80%
Auditor remuneration - external auditor	50	60	10	20.00%
Total other expenses	354	466	112	31.68%

4.2 Balance Sheet

4.2.1 Assets

Overall the total assets in the Balance Sheet are expected to increase each year due to a large capital works program budget in 2024/25 and further delivered in 2025/26, offset by the impact of depreciation. The split between current and non current assets is expected to widen as the funds received for capital works projects are spent. Rate capping and its impacts on the balance sheet can be seen here with the reduction in cash. It is anticipated that the ongoing cost of living concerns will continue into 2026/27, represented by an increasing trend in trade receivables, but then begin to subside following this.

4.2.2 Liabilities

Included in Council's liabilities is the anticipated borrowings which have been budgeted to be taken in 2025/26 and the balance in 2026/27. The increase in trade payables is expected to be greater at the end of 2024/25 year, with a number of projects due for completion in June, and subsequent supplier payments due in July (representing a liability at year end).

4.2.3 Borrowings

The table below shows information on borrowings specifically required by the Regulations.

	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	2026/27	Projections 2027/28	2028/29
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Amount borrowed as at 30 June of the prior year	2,089	2,089	2,489	3,589	3,204
Amount proposed to be borrowed	-	500	1,350	-	-
Amount projected to be redeemed	-	100	250	385	385
Amount of borrowings as at 30 June	2,089	2,489	3,589	3,204	2,819
Amount (of opening balance) to be refinanced	-	2,089	-	-	-

4.2.4 Leases by category

As a result of the introduction of AASB 16 Leases, right-of-use assets and lease liabilities have been recognised as outlined in the table below.

	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26
	\$	\$
Right-of-use assets		
Land and Buildings	475	475
IT Equipment	78	78
Total right-of-use assets	553	553
Lease liabilities		
Current lease Liabilities		
Land and Buildings	52	52
IT Equipment	9	9
Total current lease liabilities	61	61
Non-current lease liabilities		
Land and Buildings	218	157
IT Equipment	-	-
Total non-current lease liabilities	218	157
Total lease liabilities	279	218

Where the interest rate applicable to a lease is not expressed in the lease agreement, Council applies the average incremental borrowing rate in the calculation of lease liabilities. The current incremental borrowing rate is 5.01%.

4.3 Statement of changes in Equity

4.3.1 Reserves

Council's asset revaluation reserve has a budgeted movement to account for indexation revaluations as well as full revaluations. Each class of asset is subject to a full revaluation every four years with an indexation revaluation undertaken in the other years. History has shown that a large increase in Infrastructure assets is seen when a full revaluation is undertaken. This has been taken into account in the 2025/26 year.

4.3.2 Equity

The movement in the statement of equity relates to the budgeted comprehensive result for the period.

4.4 Statement of Cash Flows

4.4.1 Net cash flows provided by/used in operating activities

Cash flows from operating activities are considerably higher in the 2025/26 budget than in future years, due to the significant level of capital grants income and borrowing budgeted for in this year.

4.4.2 Net cash flows provided by/used in investing activities

Cash flows used in investing activities are considerably higher in the 2025/26 budget than in future years due to the significant level of grant-funded capital works budgeted for in this year.

4.4.3 Net cash flows provided by/used in financing activities

Cash flows from financing activities takes into account the intended borrowings in the 2025/26 years.

4.5 Capital works program

This section presents a listing of the capital works projects that will be undertaken for the 2025/26 year, classified by expenditure type and funding source. Works are also disclosed as current budget or carried forward from prior year.

4.5.1 Summary

	Forecast 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Property	5,388	5,418	30	0.55%
Plant and equipment	2,120	573	-1,547	-72.98%
Infrastructure	6,445	4,598	-1,847	-28.66%
Total	13,953	10,588	-3,365	-24.12%

	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property	5,418	358	4,419	641	-	2,945	-	1,973	500
Plant and equipment	573	150	-	423	-	-	-	573	-
Infrastructure	4,598	-	3,498	1,100	-	3,299	-	1,299	-
Total	10,588	508	7,917	2,163	-	6,244	-	3,844	500

Council will be undertaking \$10.588 million of Capital Works projects during the 2025/26 financial year, with \$4.267 million of newly committed projects. \$6.321 million of the total expenditure relates to project funds that are expected to be carried forward from the 2024/25 financial year.

Of the capital works budget, 95 per cent has been allocated to renewing and upgrading Council's existing infrastructure.

4.5.2 Current Budget

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
PROPERTY									
Land Improvements									
Swimming Pool Renewal	30	-	30	-	-	-	-	30	
Swimming Pool Reconstruction Stage 1	450	-	450	-	-	300	-	150	
Landfill works	100	-	100	-	-	-	-	100	
Transfer Station Infrastructure Upgrade	50	-	-	50	-	-	-	50	
Dog Park	100	100	-	-	-	100	-	-	
Buildings									
Building Renewal - Re-active	75	-	75	-	-	-	-	75	
Building Renewal - Planned	134	-	134	-	-	-	-	134	
Public Conveniences - Toilet and BBQ	30	-	-	30	-	-	-	30	
TOTAL PROPERTY	969	100	789	80	-	400	-	569	
Computers and Telecommunications									
PC Hardware	50	50	-	-	-	-	-	50	
Business System Uplift	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	100	
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	150	150	-	-	-	-	-	150	

Capital Works Area	Project Cost		Asset expenditure types			Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Roads									
Design Capital Works	75	-	75	-	-	-	-	-	75
Road to Recovery	1,295	-	1,295	-	-	1,263	-	-	32
Clunes Mt Cameron Rd - SLRIP	768	-	768	-	-	768	-	-	-
Major Patches	100	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	100
Seals Renewal Reseals	450	-	450	-	-	-	-	-	450
Seals Renewal Asphalt	100	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	100
Sealed Road Shoulders Renewal	100	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	100
Aerodromes									
Aerodrome Regional Airport Program Round 4	170	-	170	-	-	85	-	-	85
Aerodrome Regional Airport - audit recommendation	90	-	90	-	-	-	-	-	90
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	3,148	-	3,148	-	-	2,116	-	-	1,032
TOTAL NEW CAPITAL WORKS	4,267	250	3,937	80	-	2,516	-	-	1,751

4.5.3 Works carried forward from the 2024/25 year

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	New	Asset expenditure types			Summary of Funding Sources			
			Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
PROPERTY									
Land Improvements									
Deledio Recreation Reserve - Pavilion Upgrade	2,900	-	2,900	-	-	1,900	-	500	500
Goldfields Reservoir Dam Stabilisation	500	-	500	-	-	-	-	500	-
Maryborough Tennis Centre Multi Use Courts Development	523	-	-	523	-	240	-	283	-
Sport and Recreation Lighting Audit	70	-	70	-	-	-	-	70	-
Goldfields Reservoir BBQ Upgrade	18	-	-	18	-	7	-	11	-
Castlemaine Maryborough Rail Trail	20	-	-	20	-	-	-	20	-
Princes Park Cricket Wicket Rebuild Project	160	-	160	-	-	140	-	20	-
Buildings									
Tiny Towns (various projects)	258	258	-	-	-	258	-	-	-
TOTAL PROPERTY	4,449	258	3,630	561	-	2,545	-	1,404	500
Computers and Telecommunications									
Rural Council Transformation Program (RCTP)	423	-	-	423	-	-	-	423	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	423	-	-	423	-	-	-	423	-
Capital Works Area	Project Cost	New	Asset expenditure types			Summary of Funding Sources			
			Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Roads									
TAC Road Safety Program	1,100	-	-	1,100	-	883	-	217	-
Bridges									
Betterment bridges and culverts	350	-	350	-	-	300	-	50	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	1,450	-	350	1,100	-	1,183	-	267	-
TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD CAPITAL WORKS 2024/25	6,321	258	3,980	2,083	-	3,728	-	2,094	500

Summary of Planned Capital Works Expenditure
For the years ending 30 June 2027, 2028 & 2029

2026/27	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property										
Land improvements	2,918	0	2,918	0	0	2,918	1,000	0	568	1,350
Total Land	2,918	0	2,918	0	0	2,918	1,000	0	568	1,350
Buildings	1,156	0	1,156	0	0	1,156	1,000	0	156	0
Total Buildings	1,156	0	1,156	0	0	1,156	1,000	0	156	0
Total Property	4,074	0	4,074	0	0	4,074	2,000	0	724	1,350
Plant and Equipment										
Plant, machinery and equipment	139	139	0	0	0	139	0	0	139	0
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	227	227	0	0	0	227	0	0	227	0
Total Plant and Equipment	366	366	0	0	0	366	0	0	366	0
Infrastructure										
Roads	2,350	0	2,350	0	0	2,350	1,500	0	850	0
Bridges	441	0	441	0	0	441	300	0	141	0
Footpaths and cycleways	192	0	192	0	0	192	0	0	192	0
Drainage	327	0	327	0	0	327	200	0	127	0
Parks, open space and streetscapes	117	0	117	0	0	117	0	0	117	0
Other infrastructure	356	0	356	0	0	356	0	0	356	0
Total Infrastructure	3,783	0	3,783	0	0	3,783	2,000	0	1,783	0
Total Capital Works Expenditure	8,223	366	7,857	0	0	8,223	4,000	0	2,873	1,350

2027/28	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property										
Land improvements	814	0	814	0	0	814	500	0	314	0
Total Land	814	0	814	0	0	814	500	0	314	0
Buildings	471	0	471	0	0	471	300	0	171	0
Total Buildings	471	0	471	0	0	471	300	0	171	0
Total Property	1,285	0	1,285	0	0	1,285	800	0	485	0
Plant and Equipment										
Plant, machinery and equipment	461	461	0	0	0	461	0	0	461	0
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	440	440	0	0	0	440	258	0	182	0
Total Plant and Equipment	901	901	0	0	0	901	258	0	643	0
Infrastructure										
Roads	2,608	0	2,608	0	0	2,608	2,079	0	529	0
Bridges	117	0	117	0	0	117	0	0	117	0
Footpaths and cycleways	196	0	196	0	0	196	0	0	196	0
Drainage	242	0	242	0	0	242	242	0	0	0
Waste management	33	0	33	0	0	33	0	0	33	0
Parks, open space and streetscapes	119	0	119	0	0	119	0	0	119	0
Other infrastructure	213	0	213	0	0	213	0	0	213	0
Total Infrastructure	3,528	0	3,528	0	0	3,528	2,321	0	1,207	0
Total Capital Works Expenditure	5,714	901	4,813	0	0	5,714	3,379	0	2,335	0

2028/29	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property										
Land improvements	291	0	291	0	0	291	200	0	91	0
Total Land	291	0	291	0	0	291	200	0	91	0
Buildings	1,027	0	1,027	0	0	1,027	800	0	227	0
Total Buildings	1,027	0	1,027	0	0	1,027	800	0	227	0
Total Property	1,318	0	1,318	0	0	1,318	1,000	0	318	0
Plant and Equipment										
Plant, machinery and equipment	378	378	0	0	0	378	0	0	378	0
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	445	445	0	0	0	445	0	0	445	0
Total Plant and Equipment	823	823	0	0	0	823	0	0	823	0
Infrastructure										
Roads	2,457	0	2,457	0	0	2,457	1,579	0	878	0
Bridges	461	0	461	0	0	461	0	0	461	0
Footpaths and cycleways	200	0	200	0	0	200	0	0	200	0
Drainage	588	0	588	0	0	588	0	0	588	0
Waste management	34	0	34	0	0	34	0	0	34	0
Parks, open space and streetscapes	322	0	322	0	0	322	0	0	322	0
Other infrastructure	428	0	428	0	0	428	0	0	428	0
Total Infrastructure	4,490	0	4,490	0	0	4,490	1,579	0	2,911	0
Total Capital Works Expenditure	6,631	823	5,808	0	0	6,631	2,579	0	4,052	0

5a. Targeted performance indicators

The following tables highlight Council's current and projected performance across a selection of targeted service and financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's intentions and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

The targeted performance indicators below are the prescribed performance indicators contained in Schedule 4 of the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. Results against these indicators and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Targeted performance indicators - Service

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2023/24	Forecast 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target Projections			Trend +/-
						2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	
Governance									
Consultation and engagement (Council decisions made and implemented with community input)	Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council	1	48.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	o
Roads									
Condition (sealed local roads are maintained at the adopted condition standard)	Sealed local roads below the intervention level Number of kms of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kms of sealed local roads	2	99.11%	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%	o
Statutory planning									
Service standard (planning application processing and decisions are in accordance with legislative requirements)	Planning applications decided within the relevant required time Number of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time / Number of planning application decisions made	3	30.43%	32.00%	32.00%	33.00%	34.00%	35.00%	o
Waste management									
Waste diversion (amount of waste diverted from landfill is maximised)	Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins	4	45.29%	47.00%	47.00%	47.00%	48.00%	49.00%	o

Targeted performance indicators - Financial

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2023/24	Forecast 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target Projections			Trend
						2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	+/-
Liquidity									
Working Capital (sufficient working capital is available to pay bills as and when they fall due)	Current assets compared to current liabilities Current assets / current liabilities	5	35.04%	70.10%	81.19%	97.16%	110.97%	107.60%	o
Obligations									
Asset renewal (assets are renewed as planned)	Asset renewal compared to depreciation Asset renewal and upgrade expense / Asset depreciation	6	154.30%	87.42%	110.89%	78.93%	44.16%	48.66%	-
Stability									
Rates concentration (revenue is generated from a range of sources)	Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	7	58.41%	58.77%	61.08%	61.09%	61.10%	61.11%	o
Efficiency									
Expenditure level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	Expenses per property assessment Total expenses / no. of property assessments	8	\$4,428	\$4,081	\$ 4,120	\$4,311	\$4,518	\$4,733	+

5b. Financial performance indicators

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's financial position and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

The financial performance indicators below are the prescribed financial performance indicators contained in Part 3 of Schedule 3 of the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. Results against these indicators will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2023/24	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Projections 2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Trend +/-
Operating position									
Adjusted underlying result (an adjusted underlying surplus is generated in the ordinary course of business)	Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	9	-30.28%	-16.17%	-15.12%	-16.97%	-19.03%	-21.08%	-
Liquidity									
Unrestricted cash (sufficient cash that is free of restrictions is available to pay bills as and when they fall due)	Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities Unrestricted cash / current liabilities	10	-31%	-15%	6%	22%	37%	34%	+
Obligations									
Loans and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings is appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities)	Loans and borrowings compared to rates Interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue	11	12%	11%	11%	12%	17%	15%	+
Loans and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings is appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities)	Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue		-0.53%	0.55%	0.56%	0.62%	0.84%	0.84%	+
Indebtedness (level of long term liabilities is appropriate to the size and nature of a Council's activities)	Non-current liabilities compared to own-source revenue Non-current liabilities / own source revenue		2.40%	21.66%	20.61%	21.79%	25.84%	23.69%	+
Stability									
Rates effort (rating level is set based on the community's capacity to pay)	Rates compared to property values Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipal district	12	0.42%	0.45%	0.48%	0.50%	0.48%	0.47%	o
Efficiency									
Revenue level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	Average rate per property assessment General rates and municipal charges / no. of property assessments	13	\$1,513	\$1,560	\$1,598	\$1,646	\$1,695	\$1,746	+

Sustainability Capacity

Key to Forecast Trend:

- + Forecasts improvement in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator
- o Forecasts that Council's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecasts deterioration in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

Notes to indicators**5a****1. Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement**

Council has used the average result for small rural councils as the basis for this target

2. Sealed local roads below the intervention level

Council intends to maintain a good level of road condition with the support of grant funded programs

3. Planning applications decided within the relevant required time

Council intends to increase current servicing levels, noting the resourcing constraints

4. Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill

An improvement from previous years results with legislated changes to waste collection, don't anticipate further changes

5. Working Capital

It is a continuous challenge for Council to ensure working capital is kept above 100% and the long term challenges of rate capping and debt collection legislation impact this position.

6. Asset renewal

Asset renewal is anticipated to decrease from 2026/27 onwards. A conservative approach has been taken to capital grant funding which impacts the upgrade and renewal capacity of Council.

7. Rates concentration

A conservative approach to capital grant funding results in rate revenue accounting for a higher percentage of revenue, showing an slight increase in rates concentration over the coming 4 years

8. Expenditure level

Total expenses is anticipated to decrease in the 2025/26 year, however this is forecast to continually increase over the outer years with CPI increases which impact Council. The number of assessments has not increased for the purposes of this KPI in the forecast years

5b**9. Adjusted underlying result**

Council continues to review the long term impact of decision making on the adjusted underlying result. The impact of rate capping and increases in cost of materials is anticipated to continue to impact this result.

10. Unrestricted Cash

The impact of rate capping as well as a conservative approach taken to capital grant funding has meant the expectation of Council to self fund capital works at a higher rate, resulting in a decrease in unrestricted cash.

11. Debt compared to rates

Council intends to borrow funds in both the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years which have been taken into account in forecasted ratios

12. Rates effort

The 2025/26 CIV for Central Goldfields Shire has decreased on the 2024/25 year, for the 2nd year in a row. This represents a plateau in valuations following multiple years of large increases. It is anticipated that the year on year valuations increase at much more moderate levels.

13. Revenue level

Council intends has put on hold to apply for a rate cap variation for the 2025/26 financial year as the reduction in waste charges was a ministerial guidelines.

6. Schedule of Fees and Charges

This appendix presents the fees and charges of a statutory/non-statutory nature which will be charged in respect to various goods and services during the 2025/26 financial year. Fees and charges are based on information available at the time of publishing and may vary during the financial year subject to any changes in Council's policy or legislation.

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$	\$	\$	%	
Art Gallery							
Special Gallery Exhibitions	Per person	Taxable	POA	POA	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
School Holiday Children's Workshop Fees	Per workshop	Taxable	POA	POA	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Animal Management							
Dog Registration – Animal either neutered, over 10 years old, working stock, breeding stock at registered business or obedience trained	Per dog	Non -Taxable	\$ 42.00	\$ 44.00	\$ 2.00	4.8%	Statutory
Pensioner Dog Registration – Animal either neutered, over 10 years old, working stock, breeding stock at registered business or obedience trained	Per dog	Non -Taxable	\$ 21.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 1.00	4.8%	Statutory
Cat Registration – Animal either neutered, over 10 years old or breeding stock at registered business.	Per cat	Non -Taxable	\$ 42.00	\$ 44.00	\$ 2.00	4.8%	Statutory
Pensioner Cat Registration – Animal either neutered, over 10 years old or breeding stock at registered business	Per cat	Non -Taxable	\$ 21.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 1.00	4.8%	Statutory
Dog Registration	Per dog	Non -Taxable	\$ 126.00	\$ 132.00	\$ 6.00	4.8%	Statutory
Pensioner Dog Registration	Per dog	Non -Taxable	\$ 63.00	\$ 66.00	\$ 3.00	4.8%	Statutory
Cat Registration	Per cat	Non -Taxable	\$ 126.00	\$ 132.00	\$ 6.00	4.8%	Statutory
Pensioner Cat Registration	Per cat	Non -Taxable	\$ 63.00	\$ 66.00	\$ 3.00	4.8%	Statutory
Replacement Registration Tag	Per tag	Taxable	\$ -	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	100.0%	Non-statutory
Micro chipping	Per animal	Taxable	\$ 47.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 3.00	6.4%	Statutory
Permit for more than 2 dogs (per annum)	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 47.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 3.00	6.4%	Statutory
Domestic Animal Business Registration (DAB)	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 279.00	\$ 288.00	\$ 9.00	3.2%	Statutory
Pound release fee	Per dog and cat	Taxable	\$ 47.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 2.00	4.3%	Statutory
Pound release per day	Per dog and cat	Taxable	\$ 16.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 3.00	18.8%	Statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$	\$	\$	%	
Pound release fee (Stock & other)	Per animal	Taxable	\$ 115.00	\$ 118.50	\$ 3.50	3.0%	Non-statutory
Pound release fee (Stock & other)	Per animal per day	Taxable	\$ 24.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 1.00	4.2%	Non-statutory
Pound release (previously impounded)	Per dog or cat	Taxable	\$ -	\$ 70.00	\$ 70.00	100.0%	Non-statutory
Adoption Fee (Female Dogs)	Per animal	Taxable	\$ 490.00	\$ 505.00	\$ 15.00	3.1%	Non-statutory
Adoption Fee (Male Dogs)	Per animal	Taxable	\$ 365.00	\$ 376.00	\$ 11.00	3.0%	Non-statutory
Adoption Fee (Female Cats)	Per animal	Taxable	\$ 250.00	\$ 258.00	\$ 8.00	3.2%	Non-statutory
Adoption Fee (Male Cats)	Per animal	Taxable	\$ 180.00	\$ 185.40	\$ 5.40	3.0%	Non-statutory
Animal Surrender Fee (unregistered)	Per animal	Taxable	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	100.0%	Non-statutory

Airport

Site Leases	Per site	Taxable	Market Rate	Market Rate	\$-	0.0%	Non-statutory
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Asset Management

Wood collection fee – per m3	Per m3	Non -Taxable	\$ 24.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 1.00	4.2%	Non-statutory
Pensioner Concession Wood collection fee – per m3	Per m3	Non -Taxable	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Consent for excavation works	Per permit	Non -Taxable	\$ 173.00	\$ 178.00	\$ 5.00	2.9%	Non-statutory
Vehicle crossing fee	Per permit	Non -Taxable	\$ 150.00	\$ 155.00	\$ 5.00	3.3%	Non-statutory
General road occupation	Per permit	Non -Taxable	\$ 110.00	\$ 113.00	\$ 3.00	2.7%	Non-statutory
Construction road occupation fee - First week	Per week	Non -Taxable	\$ 110.00	\$ 113.00	\$ 3.00	2.7%	Non-statutory
Construction road occupation fee - after one week	Per week	Non -Taxable	\$ 53.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 2.00	3.8%	Non-statutory
Tree Planting fee	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 185.00	\$ 191.00	\$ 6.00	3.2%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$		\$	%	
Building							
Building Information Fee	Per statement	Non -Taxable	\$ 52.09	\$ 53.66	\$ 1.56	3.0%	Statutory
Stormwater legal point of discharge	Per permit	Non -Taxable	\$ 159.54	\$ 238.34	\$ 78.80	49.4%	Statutory
Report and Consent 132(1), 134(2), 153(2) and Part 6 or 10	Per report	Non -Taxable	\$ 320.23	\$ 329.84	\$ 9.61	3.0%	Statutory
Report and Consent - Siting	Per report	Non -Taxable	\$ 448.20	\$ 461.71	\$ 13.51	3.0%	Statutory
Lodgement Fee	Per lodgement	Non -Taxable	\$ 134.40	\$ 138.43	\$ 4.03	3.0%	Statutory
Class 1 Dwelling - value \$0-\$5,000	Per lodgement	Taxable	\$ 580.00	\$ 610.00	\$ 30.00	5.2%	Non-statutory
Class 1 Dwelling - value \$5,001-\$40,000	Per lodgement	Taxable	\$ 1,210.00	\$ 1,246.00	\$ 36.00	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 1 Dwelling - value \$40,001-\$80,000	Per lodgement	Taxable	\$ 1,590.00	\$ 1,637.70	\$ 47.70	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 1 Dwelling - value \$80,001-\$100,000	Per lodgement	Taxable	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 2,029.10	\$ 59.10	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 1 Dwelling - value \$100,001-\$200,000	Per lodgement	Taxable	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 2,214.00	\$ 64.00	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 1 Dwelling - value \$200,001-\$400,000	Per lodgement	Taxable	\$ 3,230.00	\$ 3,326.90	\$ 96.90	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 1 Dwelling - value \$400,001-\$600,000	Per lodgement	Taxable	\$ 4,845.00	\$ 4,990.35	\$ 145.35	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 1 Dwelling - value \$600,001-\$800,000	Per lodgement	Taxable	\$ 6,460.00	\$ 6,653.00	\$ 193.00	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 1 Dwelling - value \$800,001 and above	Per lodgement	Taxable	\$ 8,075.00	\$ 8,317.25	\$ 242.25	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 10A Buildings (Sheds, pools, fences and retaining walls) value \$0 - \$5,000	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 580.00	\$ 610.00	\$ 30.00	5.2%	Non-statutory
Class 10A Buildings (Sheds, pools, fences and retaining walls) value \$5,001 - \$10,000	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 685.00	\$ 720.00	\$ 35.00	5.1%	Non-statutory
Class 10A Buildings (Sheds, pools, fences and retaining walls) value \$10,001-\$20,000	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 805.00	\$ 845.00	\$ 40.00	5.0%	Non-statutory
Class 10A Buildings (Sheds, pools, fences and retaining walls) value \$20,001 +	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 1,210.00	\$ 1,270.00	\$ 60.00	5.0%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$	\$	\$	%	
Class 2-9 Construction and Demolition and Change of Use (POA) - Owner Builder	Per lodgement	Taxable	AIBS Formula will apply	AIBS Formula will apply	\$ -	0.0%	Non Statutory
Class 2-9 Construction and Demolition and Change of Use (POA) - Registered Builder	Per lodgement	Taxable	AIBS Formula will apply	AIBS Formula will apply	\$ -	0.0%	Non Statutory
Change of Use Class 1 and 10	Per lodgement	Taxable	\$ 682.50	\$ 680.00	\$ (2.50)	-0.4%	Non Statutory
Extension of Current Building Permits (all Permits & Extensions)	Per lodgement	Taxable	\$ 450.00	\$ 475.00	\$ 25.00	5.6%	Non Statutory
Renewal of Expired Permit	Per lodgement	Taxable	\$ 650.00	\$ 680.00	\$ 30.00	4.6%	Non Statutory
Redline report liquor licence	Per licence	Taxable	\$ 470.00	\$ 490.00	\$ 20.00	4.3%	Non Statutory
Building inspections	Per inspection	Taxable	\$ 300.00	\$ 315.00	\$ 15.00	5.0%	Non Statutory
Demolition Class 1	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 50.00	5.0%	Non Statutory
Demolition Class 10	per permit	Taxable	\$ 600.00	\$ 630.00	\$ 30.00	5.0%	Non Statutory
Minor Amendment of existing Building Permit	per request	Taxable	\$ 240.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 10.00	4.2%	Non Statutory
Major Amendment of existing Building Permit	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 600.00	\$ 630.00	\$ 30.00	5.0%	Non Statutory
Illegal building work	Per permit	Taxable	1.5 times building permit fee	1.5 times building permit fee	\$ -	0.0%	Non Statutory
Restump/Reblock Building Permit	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 50.00	5.0%	Non Statutory
ESM report	Per report	Taxable	\$ 600.00	\$ 630.00	\$ 30.00	5.0%	Non Statutory
Title search	Per search	Taxable	\$ 80.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 5.00	6.3%	Non-statutory
Archive Document Retrieval - On Site	Per retrieval	Taxable	\$60.00	\$65.00	\$ 5.00	8.3%	Non-statutory
Archive Document Retrieval - Off Site	Per retrieval	Taxable	\$190.00	\$200.00	\$ 10.00	5.3%	Non-statutory
Swimming pool or spa registration	Per pool or spa	Non -Taxable	\$ 35.11	\$ 36.16	\$ 1.05	3.0%	Statutory
Swimming pool or spa registration - Compliance Certificate Lodgement	Per certificate	Non -Taxable	\$ 22.54	\$ 23.21	\$ 0.68	3.0%	Statutory
Swimming pool or spa registration - Certificate of Noncompliance Lodgement	Per certificate	Non -Taxable	\$ 424.58	\$ 437.32	\$ 12.74	3.0%	Statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$	\$	\$	%	
FRV report and consent comments	Per request	Non -Taxable	\$ 760.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 40.00	5.3%	Non-statutory
Demolition Consent - Section 29A (for complete or partial dem	Per request	Non -Taxable	\$ 95.00	\$ 96.71	\$ 1.71	1.8%	Non-statutory
Place of Public Occupation (POPE)	per application	Taxable	\$ 591.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 59.00	10.0%	Non-statutory
Prescribed Temp Structures - Siting	per application	Taxable	\$ 400.00	\$ 440.00	\$ 40.00	10.0%	Non-statutory
Occupation of Temp Structures	per application	Taxable	\$ 225.00	\$ 235.00	\$ 10.00	4.4%	Non-statutory
Alternative Performance Solutions	per application	Taxable	\$ 600.00	\$ 630.00	\$ 30.00	5.0%	Non-statutory

Caravan Park Registrations							
Registration Application Fees less than 26 Sites	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 277.61	\$ 285.94	\$ 8.33	3.0%	Statutory
Registration Application Fees between 26 and 50 Sites	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 555.22	\$ 571.88	\$ 16.66	3.0%	Statutory
Registration Application Fees between 51 and 100 Sites	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 1,110.44	\$ 1,143.75	\$ 33.31	3.0%	Statutory
Registration Application Fees between 101 and 150 Sites	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 1,681.99	\$ 1,732.45	\$ 50.46	3.0%	Statutory
Registration Application Fees between 151 and 200 Sites	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 2,237.21	\$ 2,304.33	\$ 67.12	3.0%	Statutory
Registration Application Fees between 201 and 250 Sites	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 2,792.43	\$ 2,876.20	\$ 83.77	3.0%	Statutory
Registration Application Fees between 251 and 300 Sites	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 3,347.65	\$ 3,448.08	\$ 100.43	3.0%	Statutory
Registration Application Fees between 301 and 350 Sites	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 3,919.20	\$ 4,036.78	\$ 117.58	3.0%	Statutory
Registration Application Fees between 351 and 400 Sites	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 4,474.42	\$ 4,608.65	\$ 134.23	3.0%	Statutory
Registration Application Fees between 401 and 450 Sites	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 5,029.64	\$ 5,180.53	\$ 150.89	3.0%	Statutory
Registration Application Fees between 451 and 500 Sites	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 5,584.86	\$ 5,752.41	\$ 167.55	3.0%	Statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$	\$	\$	%	
Civil Services							
Checking of Civil drawings for Subdivisions	Per job	Taxable	0.75% of the total construction costs	0.75% of the total construction costs	\$ -	0.0%	Statutory
Supervision of construction	Per job	Taxable	2.5% of the total construction costs	2.5% of the total construction costs	\$ -	0.0%	Statutory
Private Works for Others	Per job	Taxable	Costs plus 20% plus GST	Costs plus 20% plus GST	\$ -	0.0%	Statutory
Environmental Health							
Septic Tank application fee	Per permit	Non -Taxable	\$ 798.21	\$ 822.16	\$ 23.95	3.0%	Statutory
Alter Septic Tank fee	Per permit	Non -Taxable	\$ 608.29	\$ 626.54	\$ 18.25	3.0%	Statutory
Septic Tank amendment	Per permit	Non -Taxable	\$ 64.50	\$ 66.45	\$ 1.95	3.0%	Non-statutory
Septic Tank extension	Per permit	Non -Taxable	\$ 64.50	\$ 66.45	\$ 1.95	3.0%	Non-statutory
Additional Site Inspection	Per inspection	Non -Taxable	\$ 226.50	\$ 233.20	\$ 6.70	3.0%	Non-statutory
Search Fee	Per search	Taxable	\$ 93.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 3.00	3.2%	Non-statutory
Finance							
Land Information Certificate	Per certificate	Non -Taxable	\$ 29.72	\$ 30.61	\$ 0.89	3.0%	Statutory
Food Premises							
Class 1	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 403.50	\$ 415.50	\$ 12.00	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 2 Fixed food premises	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 352.00	\$ 362.50	\$ 10.50	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 2 Community Group fixed food premises	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 175.50	\$ 180.80	\$ 5.30	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 2 Mobile Food Vehicle	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 352.00	\$ 362.50	\$ 10.50	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 2 Mobile Food Vehicle (Community Group)	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 105.50	\$ 108.70	\$ 3.20	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 2 Temporary Premise	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 352.00	\$ 362.50	\$ 10.50	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 2 Temporary Premise (Community Group)	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 175.50	\$ 180.70	\$ 5.20	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 2 Domestic Kitchen	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 352.00	\$ 362.50	\$ 10.50	3.0%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$	\$	\$	%	
Class 2 Community Group (Registration of a food van or temporary premises associated with a fixed premises)	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 258.00	\$ 265.70	\$ 7.70	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 2 Registration of a food van or temporary premises associated with a fixed premises	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 529.50	\$ 545.50	\$ 16.00	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 3 Fixed food premises	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 214.00	\$ 220.50	\$ 6.50	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 3 Mobile Food Vehicle	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 214.00	\$ 220.50	\$ 6.50	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 3 Mobile Food Vehicle (Community Group)	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 104.50	\$ 107.60	\$ 3.10	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 3 Temporary Premises	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 214.00	\$ 220.50	\$ 6.50	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 3 Temporary Premises (Community Group)	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 175.50	\$ 180.80	\$ 5.30	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 3 Domestic Kitchen	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 214.00	\$ 220.50	\$ 6.50	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 3 Registration of a food van or temporary premises associated with a fixed premises	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 314.50	\$ 324.00	\$ 9.50	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 3 Community Group (Registration of a food van or temporary premises associated with a fixed premises)	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 207.00	\$ 213.30	\$ 6.30	3.0%	Non-statutory
Class 4 Street Trader Notification	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Initial Registration fee for new business	Per registration	Non -Taxable	Renewal fee as per above + 50%. Fees applied on a pro-rata quarterly basis for new registrations	Renewal fee as per above + 50%. Fees applied on a pro-rata quarterly basis for new registrations	\$-	0.0%	Non-statutory
Transfer of proprietor fee	Per transfer	Non -Taxable	50% of applicable renewal fee as per the above. Plus inspection fee	50% of applicable renewal fee as per the above. Plus inspection fee	\$-	0.0%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$	\$	\$	%	
Requested inspection fee	Per inspection	Taxable	50% of applicable renewal fee as per the above. Plus inspection fee	50% of applicable renewal fee as per the above. Plus inspection fee	\$-	0.0%	Non-statutory
Reinspection fee as a result of noncompliance follow up inspection required	Per inspection	Non -Taxable	50% of applicable renewal fee as per the above. Plus inspection fee	50% of applicable renewal fee as per the above. Plus inspection fee	\$-	0.0%	Non-statutory

Freedom of Information

Printing	Per A4 page	Non -Taxable	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25	\$ -	0.0%	Statutory
Search fee per hour	Per hour	Non -Taxable	\$ 24.50	\$ 25.23	\$ 0.73	3.0%	Statutory
Request fee	Per search	Non -Taxable	\$ 32.37	\$ 33.34	\$ 0.97	3.0%	Statutory

Goldfields Family Centre

Daily Long Day Care	Per day	Non -Taxable	\$ 130.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 20.00	15.4%	Non-statutory
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Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$	\$	\$	%	
Health Registrations							
Skin Penetration fee	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 169.00	\$ 174.00	\$ 5.00	3.0%	Non-statutory
Hairdressers fee	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 84.50	\$ 87.00	\$ 2.50	3.0%	Non-statutory
Beauty Therapy	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 169.00	\$ 174.00	\$ 5.00	3.0%	Non-statutory
Prescribed Accommodation fee	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 221.50	\$ 228.20	\$ 6.70	3.0%	Non-statutory
Initial Registration fee Skin Penetration, Hairdressers or Beauty Therapy	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 84.50	\$ 87.00	\$ 2.50	3.0%	Non-statutory
Initial Registration fee Prescribed Accommodation fee	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 112.50	\$ 115.90	\$ 3.40	3.0%	Non-statutory
Transfer of proprietor fee Skin Penetration, Hairdressers or Beauty Therapy	Per transfer	Non -Taxable	\$ 84.50	\$ 87.00	\$ 2.50	3.0%	Non-statutory
Transfer of proprietor fee Prescribed Accommodation Fee	Per transfer	Non -Taxable	\$ 109.50	\$ 112.80	\$ 3.30	3.0%	Non-statutory
Requested inspection fee	Per inspection	Taxable	50% of annual renewal fee as per the above.	50% of annual renewal fee as per the above.	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Reinspection fee as a result of noncompliance follow up inspection required	Per inspection	Taxable	50% of annual renewal fee as per the above.	50% of annual renewal fee as per the above.	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Aquatic Facility Registration Category 1 (public aquatic facility)	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 389.50	\$ 401.00	\$ 11.50	3.0%	Non-statutory
Aquatic Facility Registration Category 2 (residential apartment complex, hotel, motel or hostel)	Per registration	Non -Taxable	\$ 222.50	\$ 229.20	\$ 6.70	3.0%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$	\$	\$	%	
Immunisations							
FluQuadri [FLU]	Per dose	Non -Taxable	\$ 16.50	\$ 16.75	\$ 0.25	1.5%	Non-statutory
Bexsero [Men B]	Per dose	Non -Taxable	\$ 135.00	\$ 135.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Varilix [Chickenpox]	Per dose	Non -Taxable	\$ 61.50	\$ 63.85	\$ 2.35	3.8%	Non-statutory
Adacel [Diphtheria-Tetanus-Whooping Cough]	Per dose	Non -Taxable	\$ 38.00	\$ 39.20	\$ 1.20	3.2%	Non-statutory
Engerix B [Hep B - adult]	Per dose	Non -Taxable	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.72	\$ 0.72	3.3%	Non-statutory
Havrix [Hep A – adult]	Per dose	Non -Taxable	\$ 56.00	\$ 57.98	\$ 1.98	3.5%	Non-statutory
Prevenar 13	Per dose	Non -Taxable	\$ 145.00	\$ 153.66	\$ 8.66	6.0%	Non-statutory
Library Services							
Book Club Registration on Institution	Per registration	Taxable	\$ 170.00	\$ 170.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Lost Card	Per card	Taxable	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Library Bags	Per bag	Taxable	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.60	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Photocopy A4 B&W	Per page	Taxable	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Photocopy A3 B&W	Per page	Taxable	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.50	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Photocopy A4 Colour	Per page	Taxable	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Photocopy A3 Colour	Per page	Taxable	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Fax - sending	Per page	Taxable	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Fax - receiving	Per page	Taxable	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Processing fee - lost books	Per book	Taxable	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Reservations/Inter-Library Loan	Per book	Taxable	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Reservations/Inter-Library Loan - Tertiary	Per book	Taxable	\$18.40 - \$23.40	\$18.40 - \$23.40	\$18.40 - \$23.40	0.0%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$	\$	\$	%	
Local Laws							
Advertising A Frame	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 56.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 64.00	114.3%	Non-statutory
Outdoor Dining per 6 lineal metres	Per biennial permit	Taxable	\$ 58.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 242.00	417.2%	Non-statutory
Impounded Vehicle Release fee	Per vehicle	Taxable	\$ 156.00	\$ 160.68	\$ 4.68	3.0%	Non-statutory
Impounded Vehicle - towing costs	Per vehicle	Taxable	\$ -	at cost	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Excess Animal Permit	Per permit	Taxable	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	100.0%	Non-statutory
Shipping Container Permit	Per permit	Taxable	\$ -	\$ 130.00	\$ 130.00	100.0%	Non-statutory
Skip Bin Permit	Per bin	Taxable	\$ 110.00	\$ 115.00	\$ 5.00	4.5%	Non-statutory
Keeping of livestock	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 44.00	\$ 45.30	\$ 1.30	3.0%	Non-statutory
Camping Caravan and Motorhome permit	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 145.00	\$ 148.00	\$ 3.00	2.1%	Non-statutory
Busking Permit	per permit	Taxable	\$ 24.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 6.00	25.0%	Non-statutory
General Local Laws Permit	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 145.00	\$ 149.35	\$ 4.35	3.0%	Non-statutory
Itinerate Trade Permit (Quarterly)	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 270.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 10.00	3.7%	Non-statutory
Itinerate Trade Permit (Annual)	Per permit	Taxable	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	100.0%	Non-statutory
Local Laws infringements	Per fine	Non -Taxable	\$ 200.00	\$ 206.00	\$ 6.00	3.0%	Non-statutory
Open Air Burning Permit	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 29.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 1.00	3.4%	Non-statutory
Street Party, festivals and Procession Permit #	Per permit	Taxable	\$ 160.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 5.00	3.1%	Non-statutory

#events on Council land which are not required to obtain a POPE

Local Laws - Parking Infringements

Parking Infringement general	Per fine	Non -Taxable	Per legislation	Per legislation	\$ -	0.0%	Statutory
Stop contrary to a no parking sign	Per fine	Non -Taxable	\$ 68.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 2.00	2.9%	Statutory
Parked contrary to requirement of parking area	Per fine	Non -Taxable	\$ 68.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 2.00	2.9%	Statutory
Parked not completely within a parking bay	Per fine	Non -Taxable	\$ 68.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 2.00	2.9%	Statutory
Parked for period longer than indicated	Per fine	Non -Taxable	\$ 68.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 2.00	2.9%	Statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$	\$	\$	%	

Local Laws - Animal Infringements

Animal Infringement - General	Per fine	Non -Taxable	\$ -	per legislation	\$ -	0.0%	Statutory
Dog or cat being a nuisance	Per fine	Non -Taxable	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	0.0%	Statutory
Failure to pick up dog waste	Per fine	Non -Taxable	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	0.0%	Statutory
Failing to include declaration of restricted breed at registration	Per fine	Non -Taxable	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -	0.0%	Statutory
Attack or bite on a person or animal by a dog other than a dangerous dog causing injury that is not in the nature of serious injury	Per fine	Non -Taxable	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	0.0%	Statutory

Planning

Extension to Planning Permit – First extension	Per extension	Taxable	\$ 270.00	\$ 356.00	\$ 86.00	31.9%	Non-statutory
Extension to Planning Permit – Second extension	Per extension	Taxable	\$ 400.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 150.00	37.5%	Non-statutory
Extension to Planning Permit – Third extension	Per extension	Taxable	\$ 590.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 160.00	27.1%	Non-statutory
Secondary Consent	Per consent	Taxable	\$ 270.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 30.00	11.1%	Non-statutory
Written Planning Advice	Per report	Taxable	\$ 135.00	\$ 167.00	\$ 32.00	23.7%	Non-statutory
Request for copying of Planning Permit (onsite and active search)	Per copy	Taxable	\$ 70.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 30.00	42.9%	Non-statutory
Request for hard copy of Planning Permit or other documentation	Per copy	Taxable	\$ 130.00	\$ 211.00	\$ 81.00	62.3%	Non-statutory
Notice of Planning Application	Per notice	Taxable	\$ 70.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 30.00	42.9%	Non-statutory
Notice letters (only above 12 letters/notices)	Per letter	Taxable	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 1.00	50.0%	Non-statutory
Public notice in newspaper or Government Gazette	Per notice	Taxable	At cost	At cost	At cost	0.0%	Non-statutory
Planning Panel Costs	Per panel	Taxable	At cost	At cost	At cost	0.0%	Non-statutory
Request to Approve Development Plan	Per request	Taxable	\$ 450.00	\$ 190.00	\$ (260.00)	-57.8%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25 \$	2025/26 \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee
<i>Sporting Grounds Casual use/Hire</i>							
Frank Graham Oval - Casual	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 55.00	\$ 56.65	\$ 1.65	3.0%	Non-statutory
Princes Park Oval Casual Hire - training without lights	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 55.00	\$ 56.65	\$ 1.65	3.0%	Non-statutory
Princes Park Oval Casual Hire - training with lights	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 75.00	\$ 77.25	\$ 2.25	3.0%	Non-statutory
Princes Park Netball Court Casual Hire - training without lights	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.45	\$ 0.45	3.0%	Non-statutory
Princes Park Netball Court Casual Hire - training with lights	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.90	\$ 0.90	3.0%	Non-statutory
Jubilee Oval - Casual	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 55.00	\$ 56.65	\$ 1.65	3.0%	Non-statutory
Hedges Oval - Casual	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 55.00	\$ 56.65	\$ 1.65	3.0%	Non-statutory
Jack Pascoe Reserve - Casual	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 55.00	\$ 56.65	\$ 1.65	3.0%	Non-statutory
Soccer Fields - Casual	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 55.00	\$ 56.65	\$ 1.65	3.0%	Non-statutory
Personal Training Licence Application 1-10 participants	Per quarter	Taxable	\$ 105.00	\$ 108.15	\$ 3.15	3.0%	Non-statutory
Personal Training Licence Application 1-10 participants	Per annum	Taxable	\$ 410.00	\$ 422.30	\$ 12.30	3.0%	Non-statutory
Personal Training Licence Application 11-20 participants	Per annum	Taxable	\$ 145.00	\$ 149.35	\$ 4.35	3.0%	Non-statutory
Personal Training Licence Application 11-20 participants	Per quarter	Taxable	\$ 590.00	\$ 607.70	\$ 17.70	3.0%	Non-statutory
Tullaroop Leisure Centre - Squash courts	Per hour/ per court	Taxable	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.30	\$ 0.30	3.0%	Non-statutory
Tullaroop Leisure Centre - Main court	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.60	\$ 0.60	3.0%	Non-statutory
Tullaroop Leisure Centre - Multi-purpose room	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.30	\$ 0.30	3.0%	Non-statutory
Tullaroop Leisure Centre - All facilities	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 45.00	\$ 46.35	\$ 1.35	3.0%	Non-statutory
Tullaroop Leisure Centre - All facilities	Per day	Taxable	\$ 160.00	\$ 164.80	\$ 4.80	3.0%	Non-statutory
Nolan Street Gymnasium - entire building excluding the designated Youth space (community group)	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.30	\$ 0.30	3.0%	Non-statutory
Nolan Street Gymnasium - All facilities excluding the designated Youth space (community group)	Per day	Taxable	\$ 160.00	\$ 164.80	\$ 4.80	3.0%	Non-statutory
Nolan Street Gymnasium - All facilities excluding the designated Youth space (other users)	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 45.00	\$ 46.35	\$ 1.35	3.0%	Non-statutory
Nolan Street Gymnasium - All facilities excluding the designated Youth space (other users)	Per day	Taxable	\$ 160.00	\$ 164.80	\$ 4.80	3.0%	Non-statutory
Nolan Street Gymnasium - Front room (community group)	Per hiring	Taxable	\$ 15.00	\$ 16.38	\$ 1.38	9.2%	Non-statutory
Nolan Street Gymnasium - Front room (other users)	Per hiring	Taxable	\$ 35.00	\$ 38.21	\$ 3.21	9.2%	Non-statutory
Nolan Street Gymnasium - Main court (community group)	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 20.00	\$ 21.84	\$ 1.84	9.2%	Non-statutory
Nolan Street Gymnasium - Main court (other users)	Per hour	Taxable	\$ 20.00	\$ 21.84	\$ 1.84	9.2%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$	\$	\$	%	

Tourism and Resource Centre

Visitor Centre Tours	Per Tour	Taxable	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Resource Centre Meeting Room/Foyer - Other users	Per hire	Taxable	\$ 40.00	\$ 41.20	\$ 1.20	3.0%	Non-statutory
Resource Centre Meeting Room/Foyer - Not-for-profit	Per hire	Taxable	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.45	\$ 0.45	3.0%	Non-statutory
Photocopy A4 B&W	Per page	Taxable	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Photocopy A3 B&W	Per page	Taxable	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.50	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Photocopy A4 Colour	Per page	Taxable	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Photocopy A3 Colour	Per page	Taxable	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Fax	Per page	Taxable	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory

Venue Hire

Community Hub – Community groups	Per hiring	Taxable	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.45	\$ 0.45	3.0%	Non-statutory
Community Hub – Other users	Per hiring	Taxable	\$ 40.00	\$ 41.20	\$ 1.20	3.0%	Non-statutory
Maryborough Town Hall* #	Per hiring	Taxable	\$ 420.00	\$ 432.60	\$ 12.60	3.0%	Non-statutory
Maryborough Town Hall Kitchen Only #	Per hiring	Taxable	\$ 60.00	\$ 61.80	\$ 1.80	3.0%	Non-statutory
Maryborough Lower Town Hall	Per hiring	Taxable	\$ 60.00	\$ 61.80	\$ 1.80	3.0%	Non-statutory
Maryborough Town Hall sound system hire *	Per hiring	Taxable	\$ 65.00	\$ 66.95	\$ 1.95	3.0%	Non-statutory

* Plus Bond \$300 # Plus Key Bond \$100

Waste Services**Kerbside Collection**

Garbage collection – Standard bin	Per year	Non -Taxable	\$ 202.13	\$ 203.14	\$ 1.01	0.5%	Non-statutory
Garbage collection – Optional larger bin - Urban 140, Rural 240	Per year	Non -Taxable	\$ 345.62	\$ 347.35	\$ 1.73	0.5%	Non-statutory
Garbage collection – Multiple service (per bin)	Per year	Non -Taxable	\$ 202.13	\$ 203.14	\$ 1.01	0.5%	Non-statutory
Recycling collection	Per year	Non -Taxable	\$ 180.83	\$ 181.73	\$ 0.90	0.5%	Non-statutory
Recycling collection – Multiple service (per bin)	Per year	Non -Taxable	\$ 180.83	\$ 181.73	\$ 0.90	0.5%	Non-statutory
Service establishment/bin supply cost for additional garbage bin	Per service	Taxable	\$ 156.07	\$ 90.00	\$ (66.07)	-42.3%	Non-statutory
Waste Management fee	Per year	Non -Taxable	\$ 175.53	\$ 236.97	\$ 61.44	35.0%	Non-statutory
Green Waste collection	Per year	Non -Taxable	\$ 90.76	\$ 91.21	\$ 0.45	0.5%	Non-statutory

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2024/25	2025/26	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee
			\$	\$	\$	%	
Transfer Station Gate fees							
Waste Disposal	Per cubic metre	Taxable	\$ 49.00	\$ 60.07	\$ 11.07	22.6%	Non-statutory
Waste Disposal	Car boot load	Taxable	\$ 18.30	\$ 22.44	\$ 4.14	22.6%	Non-statutory
Waste Disposal	240 litre bin	Taxable	\$ 13.42	\$ 13.42	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Green Waste Disposal	Per cubic metre	Taxable	\$ 48.00	\$ 48.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Car Tyre Disposal - Passenger Tyres	Per tyre	Taxable	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Car Tyre Disposal - Passenger Tyre with rim	Per Tyre	Taxable	\$ 13.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 4.00	30.8%	Non-statutory
Car Tyre Disposal - Passenger Tyres (contaminated)	Per tyre	Taxable	\$ 17.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 13.00	76.5%	Non-statutory
4WD Tyre Disposal - Passenger Tyre	Per tyre	Taxable	\$ -	\$ 14.00	\$ 14.00	100.0%	Non-statutory
4WD Tyre Disposal - Passenger Tyre with Rim	Per tyre	Taxable	\$ -	\$ 27.00	\$ 27.00	100.0%	Non-statutory
Tyre Disposal - Light Truck Tyres	Per tyre	Taxable	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Tyre Disposal - Light Truck tyres (contaminated)	Per tyre	Taxable	\$ 24.00	\$ 24.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Truck Tyre	Per tyre	Taxable	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Truck Tyre (Contaminated)	Per tyre	Taxable	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Contaminated Tyre Charge (Extra Charge Per Tyre)	Per Tyre	Taxable	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	100.0%	Non-statutory
Small Tractor Tyre Disposal - Per tyre	Per tyre	Taxable	\$ 42.60	\$ 927.00	\$ 884.40	2076.1%	Non-statutory
Mattress Disposal	Per mattress	Taxable	\$ 30.50	\$ 31.42	\$ 0.92	3.0%	Non-statutory
Televisions - Each	Per television	Taxable	\$ 24.50	\$ 25.50	\$ 1.00	4.1%	Non-statutory
Building demolition waste (applies to loads less than one tonne and up to one cubic metre)	Per cubic metre	Taxable	\$ 225.00	\$ 248.60	\$ 23.60	10.5%	Non-statutory
Building demolition waste (up to 3 tonne)	Per cubic metre	Taxable	\$ -	\$ 292.46	\$ 292.46	100.0%	Non-statutory
Additional Waste Vouchers for Monthly Kerbside Hard waste Collection	Per voucher	Taxable	\$ 12.25	\$ 30.04	\$ 17.79	145.2%	Non-statutory
Mulch sales							
Loaded	Per cubic metre	Taxable	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory
Self loaded	Per cubic metre	Taxable	\$ 7.50	\$ 7.50	\$ -	0.0%	Non-statutory

4.3 Places for Play - the Play Space Strategy Draft

Author: Coordinator Recreation Planning and Development

Responsible Officer: General Manager Infrastructure Assets and Planning

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

Places for Play - the Draft Play Space Strategy (the Draft Strategy) is a planning project supported by the Victorian State Government via the Victorian Government Local Sports Infrastructure Fund and has been in development since 2023.

The document is at final draft stage and the purpose of this report is to inform Council on the recommendations contained in the draft and the implications of maintaining and improving a network of play spaces across the Shire.

The Draft Strategy is in two parts (Attachments 1 and 2) and was informed by technical assessments of all playgrounds. It is intended the Draft Strategy, once endorsed, will guide the future development and management of play spaces across the shire for the next ten years.

The funding agreement includes one final milestone linked to the Draft Strategy which requires the document to be adopted by Council.

It is proposed that the Draft Play Strategy be subject to a 3-week exhibition period in May 2025 after which officers will summarise feedback and incorporate changes as appropriate before presenting the final report to Council for endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse its Draft Play Space Strategy, provided as Attachments 1 and 2 to the report, for community consultation or a 3-week period.
2. Receive a further report, following the completion of the consultation process.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025:

The Community's vision:

Our Community's Wellbeing

1. Socially connected, creative, inclusive, healthy, and safe 'all ages' friendly communities.

Our Spaces and Places

3. Sustainable living with green spaces.
3. Engaging places and spaces for people to live, work, play and connect.

Initiative:

'Active Central Goldfields,' Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020-2029 (ROSS)

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025 – Our Spaces and Places

The Community's vision 3. Engaging places and spaces for people to live, work, play and connect.

Initiative: Provide community infrastructure to meet community need.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Draft Play Space Strategy was identified in Council's 'Active Central Goldfields,' Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020-2029 (ROSS) which was adopted by Council on 22 September 2020.

The ROSS sets out Council's strategic framework for active communities, places, and spaces. It identified active play as fourth in the top ten sport and recreation activities, behind walking (recreational), bush walking and prospecting.

The document recommended that Council undertake a Play Space Inventory Review and utilise the results to develop a Play Space Strategy.

Key issues pertaining to playgrounds identified through the ROSS include non-compliance, lack of fencing and equipment being out of date, of poor quality or condition, safety and requiring a high level of maintenance.

Future needs, improvements and opportunities for playgrounds specified in the ROSS and through consultation with relevant internal stakeholders included compliance (including disability access), nature play, multi-age playground, and sensory play opportunities.

The Play Space Strategy aims to provide Council with a framework that will guide the planning, provision, and management of play spaces, ensuring an equitable, inclusive, diverse, safe, and engaging mix of play opportunities across the Shire.

Council received a \$30,000 Grant through the Victorian Government Local Sports Infrastructure Fund and has contributed \$45,000 to undertake the Play Space Strategy.

The project included a period of community consultation that led to more than three hundred submissions, the findings of which have been considered when developing the Draft Strategy.

Separate to the Draft Play Space Strategy, Council committed to undertake a Splash Park Feasibility Study to identify the issues, opportunities and costs associated with provision of a Splash Park in Maryborough.

The Splash Park Feasibility Study is in final draft form and will be presented to Council for consideration prior to the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

REPORT

Project background

Methodology

Both projects involved the consultants carrying out comprehensive site assessments and involved undertaking a locality assessment and contextual review of each play space.

This analysis included factors such as demographical influences, locality and site context, other nearby play spaces and known community priorities/issues identified through planning processes such as Community Planning and identification of operational and cost constraints, challenges, and opportunities.

This was then cross referenced against Council's Draft Play Space Strategy, particularly the gaps in distribution section, to provide further depth and credibility to recommendations.

Community Consultation

A community survey ran from 28 August to the 15 September 2023 and received over 350 responses.

The high response rate to this survey is a strong indication of the high level of interest in the community and results were used to inform the Draft Play Space Strategy.

This interest can be further seen in the level of post interaction on Facebook.

Council shared seven posts related to the survey from 29 August through to the 21 September 2023 which resulted in close to 11,000 people being reached and post engagement of 1,368, not counting the reach and engagement achieved on shared posts.

With regards to play spaces, the survey sought to understand usage patterns and influencing factors, the community demographic and playground locations, how this impacts on usage, strengths and weaknesses of individual play spaces and areas for improvement.

Key findings include:

- Two thirds of respondents live in Maryborough
- Twenty-two percent have a family member with a disability
- Fifty-six percent use a play space at least once a week
- Station Domain Playground in Maryborough is the most used play space, more than double the next play space, and four times the third most used
- Over 50% of respondents asked for more play equipment. There was a greater call for improvements such as shade/shelter, fencing, seating, and tables in relation to the closest play space, compared to the main play space, suggesting that these items were reasons people did not use their closest play space and instead went elsewhere
- The most common additional play item mentioned is water play

Further details can be found in Attachment 2: Draft Play Space Strategy Volume 2.

(Note that consultation process simultaneously sought feedback on Council's play spaces strategy and the possible provision of a splash park in Maryborough)

Key Findings

The Draft Strategy highlights opportunities to improve the offerings across play spaces in the Shire, including:

Provision of playgrounds

- Resources should be allocated towards developing resources that provide better information about existing play spaces
- There are no accessible, inclusive play opportunities in the Shire and works are required to better provide accessible, inclusive parks and play spaces with paths, furniture, amenities and play elements that are usable by families and people with a disability
- Planning for the development of and upgrades to play spaces should consider all aspects of the space including fencing, entry points, paths, furniture, amenities and play elements
- There is no consistency in provision of amenities between play spaces
- There is significant need to update most play spaces not just because of the aging infrastructure but the need to address the design on a whole of park level not just the play equipment
- There is a need for better park design – attention to the design of the whole park rather than just the play equipment; more trees, vegetation, amenity, and plant species selection that provides play materials and visual interest
- Few spaces have paths. Paths are crucial in access and inclusion and benefit a variety of groups, and extend play
- There is a general lack of diversity and play value in play spaces
- There are few options that cater for older children and teenagers
- Options for younger children are also limited, with few items designed for role play/pretend play

- Few sites have tables as well as seats. Tables are important to support a range of activities, to include older adults and people with disability, and allow use of parks for family gatherings away from home

Funding and maintaining playgrounds

- With limited resources, maintaining a network of play spaces can be complicated and funding needs to stretch across multiple locations and a wide range of infrastructure as well as make provision for maintenance works and different levels of capital works.
- As part of its asset management, Council's funding needs to consider activities including inspections, repairs, maintenance, urgent safety issues in addition to removal and replacement of equipment or whole of play space projects.
- Council needs to fund its playground assets in a manner that meets the needs of the community and ensures quality is maintained, this includes understanding and planning for maintenance costs across the life of the playground.
- Consideration should be given to both current maintenance and capital budget allocations to effectively resource both maintenance requirements as well as capital works.

Project Status

The project is nearing completion and the remaining work for the Draft Play Space Strategy is limited to seeking public feedback on the draft documents and presenting the final Draft Strategy to Council for adoption.

The recommendations contained in the adopted strategy would then be used to inform Council's asset planning into the future and will inform both Council's capital works planning and, potentially, future funding applications where a project aligns to a funding stream and is seen as a strategic priority by Council.

Managing expectations arising from the Strategy

A challenge with a strategy of this nature are the real and perceived commitments associated with a 10-year plan of facility improvements.

While the community interest in play space is high, Council must have regard for how these recommendations fit amongst the full range of Council services and facilities. To assist with this, the Draft Strategy has been modified so as not include an implementation plan but instead include recommendations by reserve.

Even funding these recommendations will prove a challenge and it is likely that a sustainable increase to Council's operational budget would be a more prudent approach.

This would mean Council operations could fund minor improvements that would add play value to the existing grounds while also extending the life of the assets.

It would also enable smaller improvements such as seating, shade, garden bed and path improvements that are meeting the intent of the Draft Strategy and deferring major capital investment.

This is not to diminish the value of developing a play space strategy, rather to highlight that the objectives of the strategy can be achieved by adopting a flexible approach to park maintenance and minor improvements that aligns with available resources.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

A Project Control Group (PCG) was established to guide and inform the Strategy's development. Members of the PCG consist of representatives from relevant Council departments and external organisations such as Sport & Recreation Victoria, Sports Focus and Asteria Services.

A Communications and Engagement Plan was developed and implemented to guide communication of the project with identified stakeholders.

This informed the promotion of the survey, and a range of information was provided through Council's media channels about the project, its purpose, and ways to get involved as well as the specific communications undertaken through the consultation phase of both projects.

It is proposed that officers will request Council approval to release the Draft Play Space Strategy and seek community feedback prior to finalising the Strategy and returning it to Council for endorsement.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Budget for the Play Space Strategy included a Council contribution of \$45,000 and a Sport and Recreation Victoria grant of \$30,000.

The Play Space Strategy considers financial and resource implications from the perspective of both maintaining and upgrading current play spaces and major capital upgrades such as full rebuild or new build.

High level indicative costs are provided in the *Recommendations by Reserve* table on page 71 but should be considered indicative only and delivery of these recommendations is subject to funding being available in future Council budgets and the scope agreed to at that time.

If implemented in full the playground renewals, upgrades and new play spaces could cost over \$5M over the life of the Strategy.

Once endorsed, the recommendations in the Draft Play Space Strategy should be incorporated into Council integrated asset management plan and capital investment should be aligned with Council's capacity to maintain the facilities into the future, particularly where new, or upgraded playground are recommended.

As part of its strategic asset management, Council needs to incorporate adequate budget for inspections, repairs, maintenance, urgent safety issues in addition to removal and replacement of equipment that is at or near the end of their useful life.

This approach should also include adding elements that improve play value and amenity with the intention of meeting community expectations and minimise large capital expenditure in future years.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk:

Property and Assets - Failure to maintain, renew and expand our assets in a timely and robust way, which considers service and delivery needs by not implementing the recommendations of the ROSS which notes poor condition and safety concerns.

Council needs to ensure that the requirements of the Australian Standards relating to playgrounds/spaces are being met and that Council is not potentially open to litigation if injuries occur.

Community engagement - Inadequate stakeholder management or engagement impacting on brand recognition and community satisfaction in Council decision making by failing to seek community input in any meaningful way re play space satisfaction and development.

CONCLUSION

The Draft Play Space Strategy is at a stage where it is appropriate to seek feedback from the community and it is recommended that the Draft Play Space Strategy (Attachments 1 and 2) input from the community is sought via a three (3) week community consultation period.

At the conclusion of the consultation process, officers will assess all feedback received and incorporate amendments or corrections as appropriate. The Final Play Space Strategy will then be presented to Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council June 2025 for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Play Space Strategy VOL 1_ REPORT V 4 April 2025 [4.3.1]

2. Play Space Strategy VOL 2_ DEMAND ANALYSIS **[4.3.2]**



Places for Play - Play Space Strategy
VOLUME 1: PLAY STRATEGY
DECEMBER 2023





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ABOUT THE PLACES FOR PLAY SPACE STRATEGY

This document is Volume 1.
Play Space Strategy

Other volumes include:

- Volume 2. Demand Analysis, -including analysis of demographic data, Council plans, and the Community and Stakeholder engagement process, and
- Volume 3. Play Space Assessments, comprising the play space assessments for each site in the Shire, by locality.

A separate report - Splash Park Feasibility- was also prepared in conjunction with this Strategy.

This Volume

This volume contains:

- a summary of quality and distribution issues in the Shire,
- strategic recommendations for planning, design and management of play spaces, ;
- principles and service standards,
- Recommendations by reserve, and
- design guidelines for play spaces.

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.





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

To meet the changing needs of the community, both now and into the future, the Central Goldfields Shire has commissioned this Places for Play- Play Space Strategy.

The overall goal of the project is to ensure that play spaces and parks will be enjoyed by families, carers, children and young people of all cultures, identities, and abilities.

The Shire has 22 Play spaces., distributed over eight localities. Maryborough, Carisbrook, and Dunolly are the main population centres.

Strategy Objective

1. Establish a clear vision and principles for play provision across Central Goldfields Shire.
2. Provide an overarching framework and strategic direction to guide the forward planning, delivery, and management of play spaces the Shire for the next ten years.
3. Inform Council's capital budget allocations and asset management processes.
4. Provide guidance on best practice design, in order to maximise value to the community from the Shire's investment in play.

Approach

This report is a very comprehensive document that aims to cover every aspect of play provision in the Goldfields Shire. The sections outlined below were undertaken meet the Shire's objectives for this project.

Background Research and Demographics

The first steps involved reviewing relevant in-house Council documents, strategies and Council plans. An up-to-date park inventory with site addresses was also completed.

The authors reviewed the 2021 Census data and investigated the implications for the Shire, in terms of play space demand. Data for Goldfields (refer Volume 2) reveals an ageing community (except for 0–5-year-olds), a high level of social disadvantage, and relatively high levels of disability and ill health. Free outdoor facilities that stimulate healthy activity assume more importance when viewed in this context.

Community Engagement

326 survey responses were received from the community engagement process. This is the largest response to such a survey received by the Shire, demonstrating the importance placed on play spaces by residents. Volume 2 summarises the responses which provided valuable insight into usage patterns and preferences.

Site assessments

The authors inspected every play space and provided detailed recommendations for each. Volume 3 contains these detailed assessments. They reveal a diverse offering across the Shire, with some high-quality sites and many that need improvements.

Review of play space distribution

The study reviewed access to play spaces within walking distance from homes in urban areas, especially in Maryborough, and revealed large areas where residents do not have access to a play space within a conservative 500m from home. A key recommendation was to add at least one new play space, possibly at Jack Pascoe Reserve, in addition to improvements in the quality of many other local spaces.

In rural localities it was concluded that investment in one higher quality play space per locality is the preferred way to service rural communities.

Planning strategy- tools

The Strategy section introduces tools to address these wide-ranging issues. It includes sections on planning and design processes, management, asset planning, and core principles for play space provision.

It also includes an important tool for classifying play spaces which in turn facilitates the setting of standards for how council should approach planning, designing and managing the different levels in the catchment hierarchy.

Classification

The study recommends classifying each play space into either **Local** (also often referred to as neighbourhood) **District** or **Regional**, depending upon the distances people travel to visit them.

Service Standards

These are management tools that guide Council on all aspect of providing facilities at each level in the classification. For example- where BBQ's should be provided; which sites require higher levels of access for people with disabilities, and where car parking is required. These Standards help manage community expectations.

Actions and Site recommendations

A set of Shire-wide action is followed by site-by-site recommendations and priorities.

General design guidelines

The Appendix to Volume 1 contains guidelines for 10 design characteristics that deliver better play value to the community.



Findings

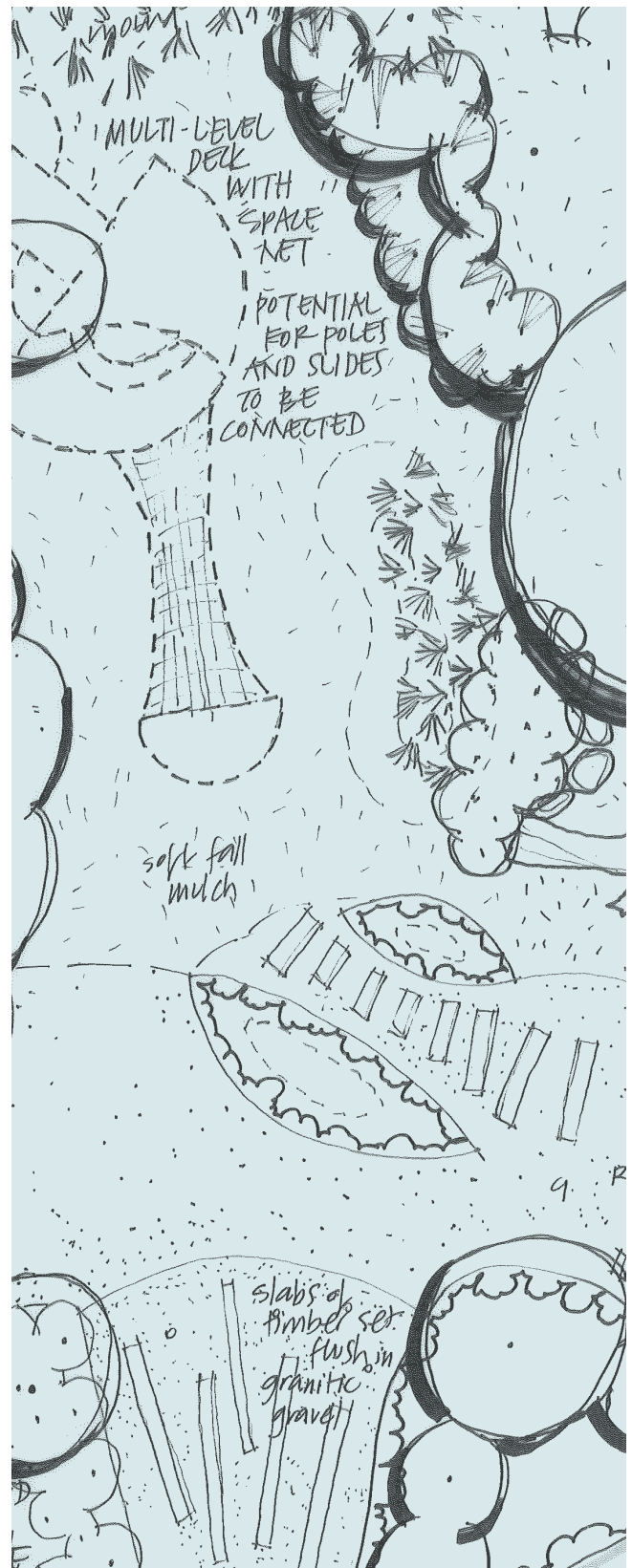
Following this research, it is recommended that Council embed the actions contained in this report in its asset management planning to ensure Council can adequately provide for this resource that is clearly valued by the community.

It has been recommended that Council adopts a multi-disciplinary approach internally to decision making and management of playspaces, with input from all relevant council departments.

There needs to be a change in the way Council approaches the design of both parks and play spaces. More emphasis needs to be placed upon natural elements especially trees and planting, as well as amenities and equipment that can be used by a broader range of ages and abilities.

The Strategy recommends major improvements to access and inclusion for people living with disability, particularly the provision of paths and accessible social amenities (furniture, shelters etc.)

This document recognises that play, inclusion, social interaction, diversity, and the natural environment are important to all people.





CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS
PLAY STRATEGY 2023

Introduction





INTRODUCTION

THIS PLACES FOR PLAY SPACE STRATEGY

This Play Space Strategy is a Shire-wide approach to play provision for the diverse communities of the Central Goldfields Shire (CGS).

This strategy will help to ensure that the Shire's play spaces continue to meet the changing needs of the community both now and into the future, and are enjoyed by families, carers, children and young people of all cultures, identities and abilities.

The strategy takes into account the input provided by members of the community and key stakeholders, as well as the community goals, changing demographics and available resources within the Shire.

Through the provision of a strategic planning framework and implementation plan, this report aims to assist the Shire to deliver benefits to the community via quality outdoor play and recreation opportunities.

Splash park/water play area

At the same time as the Play Space Strategy, the Shire has also commissioned a feasibility study for a potential Splash Park/Water Play Area.

Vision

Plan for the provision and maintenance of an equitable, inclusive, diverse, safe and engaging mix of play opportunities across this regional municipality.

"Council's Community Vision Statement:

In 2031 we are an inspiring thriving and prosperous community of choice.

We have taken bold steps towards growing our economy and our communities full of optimism and opportunities. We are kind, connected and inclusive and we nurture creativity leadership and innovation.

We value and invest in our young people and our health and well-being is high we live sustainably cherish and protect our environment and heritage and we have access to outstanding jobs education health community services infrastructure and affordable housing."

Philosophy and Values

This document is underpinned by the importance of play, inclusion, social interaction, diversity, and the natural environment to all people.

Play has a significant role in in child development and learning.

Play spaces can contribute to children's physical development and to their curiosity, creativity, cognitive, and sensory experiences.

Play spaces can help children build social and interpersonal skills, confidence and mastery.

A play space is more than just play equipment. The equipment may be of less importance than an amenable place to visit, meet friends, neighbours and others and interact socially in a place designed for that purpose.



INTRODUCTION

Philosophy and values cont.

Play spaces must be safe, welcoming, and inclusive of all community members.

Playspaces should contain trees and natural elements. Contact with nature is beneficial to all humans. Natural elements provide visual appeal, character, amenity value and play value.

Parks designed well for play are an investment in the community.

Objectives

This document is underpinned by the importance of play. The objectives of this strategy are to:

1. Establish a clear vision and principles for play provision across Central Goldfields Shire.
2. Provide an overarching framework and strategic direction to guide the forward planning, delivery, and management of play spaces the Shire for the next ten years.
3. Inform Council's capital budget allocations and asset management processes.
4. Provide guidance on best practice design, in order to maximise value to the community from the Shire's investment in play.

The strategy aims to achieve these objectives by providing:

- a clear set of planning and design principles,
- a planning framework and hierarchy for playspaces,
- service standards,
- Shire-wide actions and an implementation plan, and
- a set of design guidelines for play spaces.

Project Scope - What is a play space?

For the purposes of this Strategy, play spaces are outdoor areas within parks (owned or managed by Council) whose primary function is for play. This strategy also encompasses play spaces found in parks that have other primary functions, such as sport.

The terms 'Play space' and 'Playground' have been used interchangeably.

Both terms mean outdoor space and facilities provided by the Shire, for the purpose of children's play, that require the duty of care and management regimes as required under the following Australian Standards.

- AS 4685.0:2017 – Playground equipment and surfacing – development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation
- AS 4685.1-6 – 2021 (6 parts) – Playground equipment – General safety requirements and test methods + Additional specific requirements for swings; slides; runways; carousels; rocking equipment
- AS 4685.11:2012 – Playground equipment – Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for spatial networks
- AS 4422:2016 – Playground surfacing – Specifications, requirements and test methods.

Play spaces are typically located in reserves with or including vegetation and amenities such as paths, shade and shelters, BBQ's and furniture. Reserves may include other types of facilities such as hard courts, skate and BMX tracks and fitness equipment. Typically, all of these are considered when discussing the range of opportunities available within the park.

This strategy focuses on Council- owned or managed spaces, but other relevant play spaces (especially schools) have been taken into account as a complement to public facilities.

This strategy does not include Council owned early childhood centres or indoor play settings.



INTRODUCTION

Methodology

Jeavons and @leisure planners carried out the following tasks for this project.

- Initiated the project, meeting key stakeholders, orientation.
- Reviewed Council, State government and other policies and legislation.
- Prepared an up-to-date inventory of each park for play.
- Reviewed safety audit information.
- Visited and reported on every play space in the Shire.
- Analysed demographic data for the Shire.
- Reviewed the overall distribution of play spaces across the whole municipality.
- Prepared maps showing the distribution of play spaces across the Shire, and identified gaps in play space distribution in Maryborough.
- In conjunction with council officers, prepared an on-line community engagement survey that was conducted across the municipality (received back 326 responses, which is the largest response to such a survey received by the Shire).
- Conducted informal phone interviews with key stakeholders.
- Analysed the community engagement data.
- Prepared a report on every play space in the Shire, with some preliminary sketch plans (Volume 3).
- Prepared a play space Strategy (this Volume1).
- Summarised the demographic data and the community engagement process and outcomes (Volume 2).
- Considered the outcomes of the Splash Park feasibility report and its implications for this Strategy document.





CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS
PLAY STRATEGY 2023

Background Research & Overview

This section presents a high-level overview of the documents and data reviewed during this process. It summarises:

- relevant Council plans and policies,
- legislation,
- demand data sourced from the 2021 Census, and
- key points from the community engagement process.

This section then discusses and analyses the distribution of play spaces in CGSC, with maps identifying location and gaps in distribution.



COUNCIL POLICIES & PLANS

The following table outlines the top tier plans informing this Strategy, and the focus areas of each:

	Policy Title	Relevant contents
	Council Plan 2021-2025	<p>There are two key objectives (objectives 1 and 3) that are relevant to play:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our community's well-being <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socially connected, creative, inclusive, healthy safe, all ages, friendly communities. • Everyone is valued and belongs and has every chance to grow prosper and thrive. • The culture of our first nations people is visible, and reconciliation is something we all participate in. 3. Place and Spaces- sustainable living and green spaces. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment to climate action and less waste • protection and preservation of heritage • Engaging places in spaces for people to live, work, play and connect.
	Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020-29	<p>This Plan is the main driver of the Play space Strategy. Goal: Active places and spaces.</p> <p>Key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well planned, fit for purpose facilities and spaces, • Improve facilities at major multi use locations, • Renew and replace multi-use and shared use facilities, • Consolidate, re-purpose and rationalise low use facilities places and spaces.
	Every Child Every Chance Strategic Outcomes Framework	<p>There are two top level indicators relevant to the provision and improvement of play spaces in Central Goldfields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Goldfields children thrive in their physical, emotional, social, cognitive and communication early developmental domains, • Central Goldfields is a child and family friendly municipality.
	Municipal Health and Well-being Plan 2021-25	<p>Priorities directly related to this strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for social change • Build supporting environments • Prioritise education and employment • Foster social inclusion and diversity • Connect services with people. • These will have a positive impact on health. • A community free from violence • A socially and emotionally well community • A community with access to healthy food and drinks • A community that prioritises active living, and • A community tackling climate change and responding to public health emergencies.



THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN 2020-2029

The preparation of a Play Space Strategy was one of the major recommendations that came out of the ROSP 2020-2029.

The Plan identified that around 21% of residents used play spaces and a number of issues were highlighted through the development of the Plan.

Key issues related to Play identified in the Open Space Plan

Key issues raised by the community included the following:

PLAY

- Playgrounds are not fenced,
- Equipment is poor quality / condition and often not compliant,
- Lack of nature play and sensory play elements,
- Lack of provision for multi-ages,
- Lack of access and inclusion in play spaces.

POOLS

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,

MSLC –

- Needs 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).

Note - Background information only. This strategy does not extend to recommendations for pool infrastructure.

GENERAL

Need for:

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.

The relevant strategic directions are provided in the table following.








KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FROM RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN 2020-2029

<p>Priority - lifelong physical activity participation - 'More people, more active, more often'</p>	<p>Increase participation by young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate program initiatives, with local health services, to assist young people with obesity to increase their physical activity. Develop a program, with young people, of non-traditional, non-structured informal sport and active recreation activities. Facilitate specific events and programs for young people at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new skate and scooter park. proposed splash park/water play. Develop leadership opportunities for young people
<p>Priority - Maximising usage of facilities and space</p>	<p>Implement a play space improvement program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a play space inventory review and utilise Capital Works Assessment Matrix to determine need for facility improvements. Utilise results to develop a Play Space Strategy and include priority projects (renewal and new) in Council's Capital Works Budget; seek funding according to prioritisation using Capital Works Assessment Matrix.
	<p>Improvements to lakes, reserves and playing Fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to improve Phillips Gardens, Maryborough and its internal path network to cater for residents and visitors of all abilities. Seek funding to implement priority works in Gordon Gardens, Dunolly masterplan. Complete nature-based play space at Goldfields Reservoir.
<p>Priority - Planning and feasibility for development</p>	<p>Plan and develop free water play options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a feasibility study for a "free access" splash park/water play area in Maryborough. Seek funding to implement.
	<p>Continue planning to make the Princes Park Complex, the premier sport, recreation and open space facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a comprehensive master plan for the entire complex to include consideration of feasibility for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of Adventure Playground. Inclusion of more adult play equipment. Age friendly and older adult's' physical activity components. Potential splash park/water play. Linking paths including Burn Street multi-use path. Seek funding for detailed design and plans consistent with project priority identified using Capital Works Assessment Matrix. Implement projects when funded.

LEGISLATION AND STATE GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Legislation and State government policies drive the need to provide play opportunities that are safe, welcoming, and inclusive. These are outlined below.

	Article 31 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (which Australia is a signatory to), identifies the fundamental right of children to play and recreation and participate fully in cultural life.
	The Child Safe Standards were introduced in Victorian Child Safety and Wellbeing Act 2005 and are mandatory for all organisations that provide services or facilities for children in Victoria. Compliance with the Standards is regulated by the Commission for Children and Young People
	The Victoria's Equal Opportunity Act 2010 aims to eliminate discrimination based on parental status, employment and industrial activity, marital status, physical features, political belief or activity, religious belief or activity, pregnancy and breastfeeding etc.
	The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 requires local governments to develop a municipal public health and wellbeing plan every four years to outline how they will protect, improve, and promote public health and wellbeing.
	The Public Health and Well-being Regulations 2019 implement the Act as well as provide guidance on public aquatic facilities to protect vulnerable groups such as young children, the elderly and people with low immunity from microorganisms (pathogens) that are passed on through contaminated pool water, contaminated surfaces or person-to-person contact. a swimming pool, spa pool or interactive water feature used by members of the public, whether free of charge or on payment of a fee must comply with the Water quality guidelines for public aquatic facilities – managing public health risks (the Water Quality Guidelines): See Appendix 1.
	Victoria's Gender Equality Act 2020 requires public entities to identify and eliminate causes of gender inequality in the development and delivery of policy, programs and services. The Act requires Councils to undertake gender impact assessments on these activities.
	The Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities sets out 20 rights that promote and protect freedom, respect, equality, and dignity. The Charter requires public entities and people delivering services on their behalf abide by the human rights in the Charter



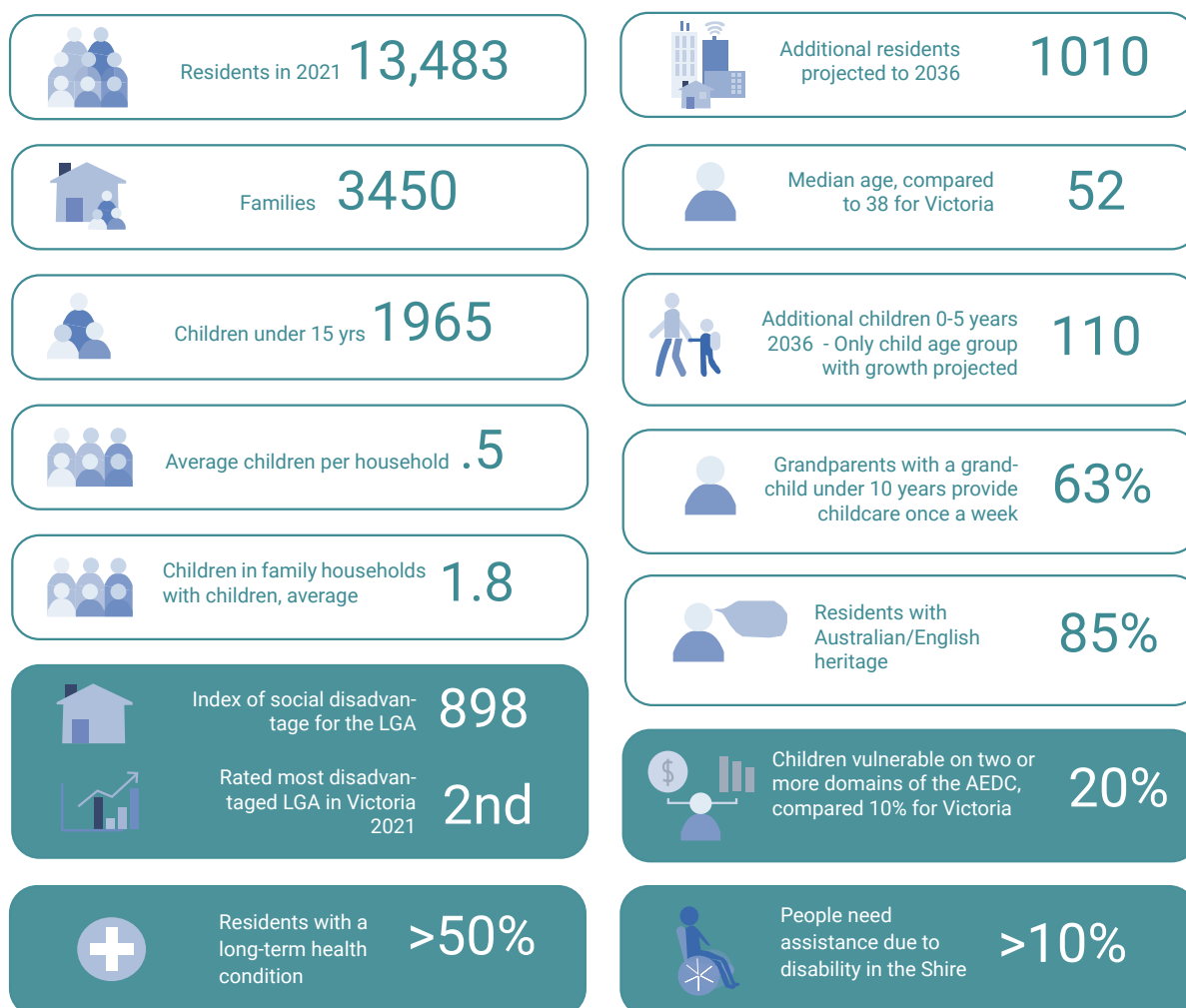
DEMAND SNAPSHOT

The section below is a brief summary of Demand information collected for this project. This is analysed in more detail in Volume 2.

Demographic influences, and implications for play

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.





DEMAND SNAPSHOT

Summary

2021 Census Data

The 2021 census revealed that the total population of Central Goldfields Shire was 13,483, including 3540 families. The proportion of children in all age groups is lower in Central Goldfields than in Victoria as a whole.

Over 10 % of people need assistance due to disability in the Shire, compared to 5.9% for Victoria. This figure is higher for Maryborough (11.2%).

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

Forecasts

The population is likely to grow by 1000 residents to 2036 and the population is aging.

The only age group of children predicted to grow is the 0-4 age group, with 110 children. All the other groups up to 19 years show a potential overall decline, with 340 fewer children.

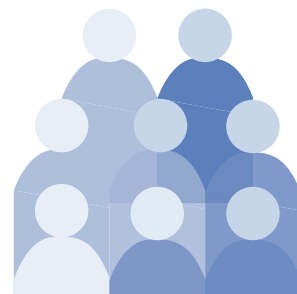
Other indicators

The index of social disadvantage show Central Goldfields is ranked second in Victoria for disadvantage. The Australian Early Development Census also shows that children in Central Goldfields are "most vulnerable" (on the scale of most to least vulnerable).

More Detail

Note that more information on the Shire's demographic profile is included in Volume 2.

The age structure and population profile of each locality is also described in Volume 3, in conjunction with the assessments of play spaces.





DEMAND SNAPSHOT

Play spaces are highly valued by the population.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PLAY SPACES

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, safety concerns due to traffic, and a lack of safe paths and bike routes.

With increased housing density in towns, children in urban areas do not always have back yards and have fewer opportunities to play outdoors at home with small yards or balconies.

At present most children or families with a disability are excluded from using play spaces in Central Goldfields due to their design.

The quality and play value of play spaces can contribute significantly to the development potential of children.

In terms of the social context of Central Goldfields Shire:

1. High quality play spaces are most important in the areas of highest disadvantage.
2. Play spaces need to be made safe, welcoming, and inclusive of people of all ages and abilities.
3. Play spaces provide an important location for family and community gatherings.
4. Families need affordable places to socialise and play close to home.
5. Children may have fewer opportunities if their caregivers are unable to assist them to play, or transport them to play spaces.
6. Many grandparents and older caregivers look after children. Play spaces need to be appealing and accessible to older adults.

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, and
- conscious provision for physical, social and environmental activities in play spaces and parks.

The distribution and demographic profile of the Shire makes the provision of play challenging and affects Council's ability to keep facilities well maintained.





DEMAND SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - A SNAPSHOT

Process

The engagement process involved the following:

- A community survey was conducted and received over 300 responses.
- A 'your-say' page was established to provide information and for residents to contribute their ideas and information about play in Central Goldfields.
- A poster was used to draw people to online opportunities and to promote the survey.
- A reference group provided advice and direction to the project as well as feedback at key stages.
- Telephone interviews were conducted with key stakeholders.
- Other social media outlets and commentary about Play and splash parks in Central Goldfields were reviewed.
- Opportunities to view the draft documentation and provide further feedback was provided at the conclusion of this project.

Results of the community survey

Over 326 residents completed a survey:

- 68% of respondents live in Maryborough
- 11% live in Carisbrook

22% live outside these two towns.

KEY FINDINGS

- 48% of respondents have a child aged 0-4, and 47% have a child aged 5-9.
- 22% have a family member with a disability.
- 56% use a play space at least once a week.
- Only 11% live within 500m of the main play space they use.
- 64% travel to the play space by car.
- Over 70% travel more than 1km to use a play space.
- As distance from the play space increases, the likelihood of using a car to get there also increases.

WATER PLAY

- 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.
- 92% think a water play area is a higher priority than other park types
- 83% of respondents that use the Maryborough Leisure Centre, go once a week or more.

PREFERRED MAIN PLAY SPACE USED

- Station Domain Playground in Maryborough is the most used play space, and more people travel over 1 km to use this space than for other parks.
- Princes Park East and the Maryborough Caravan Park (possibly wrongly identified) were the next most well used.

The key reasons people use their preferred main play space include:

- The facilities (playground equipment as well as other items such as BBQ's),
- Location, and
- Safety (predominantly fencing).
- Almost half of the respondents who use Station Domain as their main play space mentioned that safety was a particularly important feature.
- The facilities at Station Domain Play Space, including the shade/shelter were also a key reason for using that playground.



DEMAND SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT -
A SNAPSHOTIMPROVEMENTS
TO MAIN PLAY
SPACE

Overall, when asked what improvement people would like to see in their preferred main play space, their responses included:

- 50% asked for more play equipment.
- 16% were non-specific about the items, with some suggesting generic "items for younger kids" or "older kids".
- The most common additional play item mentioned was 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.

IMPROVEMENTS

When asked about improvements to their closest play space:

- 70% asked for more play equipment, with 29% non-specific about the items.
- The most common additional play item mentioned was water play (25%).
- Other specific items mentioned include swings and a hard court.
- Another 13% of respondents called for updates to the play equipment.
- 21% of respondents suggested shade/shelter.
- 15% asked for fencing.
- 13 didn't specify what improvements they wanted, and 13 others said, "no change".

Lack of shade/shelter, fencing, seating and tables were all more commonly referred to in relation to the closest play space, compared to the main play space, suggesting that these items were reasons people didn't use their closest play space and instead went elsewhere.

Volume 2 Describes demand and survey results in detail.



DEMAND SNAPSHOT

TRENDS AND INFLUENCES ON
PUBLIC SPACES**Planning 20 minute neighbourhoods**

Distribution is important. Distance or lack of walkability mean some communities may be dependent on just one play space to meet every day play needs

**An aging population and more grandparents caring for children**

Spaces need to be more accessible and include older people. But child development is the focus.

**Increased urbanisation, smaller households and smaller house blocks**

Without private yards, families require public spaces to provide replacement play opportunities including trees and natural places, close to home.

**LGA Asset management requirements**

There needs to be a greater focus on service and provision standards to drive equity, ensure parks are fit-for-purpose as well as for asset management and budgeting.

**More reliance on public space and adults taking children to places to play**

Spaces need to be an affordable, attractive, option for social gatherings for the whole family – and offer physical and environmental activities for all.

**Society values play and well-being more**

There is more focus on making urban areas child friendly, designing parks for play and residential subdivision to deliver greater play value than simply installing play equipment.

**More wheeled devices**

Increased need to cater to bikes, wheeled toys and mobility devices in parks mean path networks more important in play spaces.

**Responsive to heritage**

Goldfields have play spaces in some significant places due to the gold rush. Places to play need to be respond to these and Indigenous heritage.

**Inclusive not separate spaces**

All play spaces can be made inclusive of people with a disability and all genders, with good design. Separate "all abilities" spaces are not required, rather codesign and more attention to fine grain play experiences, careful selection of items and their placement and relationships between elements.



DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING PLAY SPACES

This section deals with the issue of distribution of play spaces across the whole municipality, as well as in more detail within the larger urban area of Maryborough. It:

- includes location maps,
- discusses the concept of walkability within residential catchments and basic principles for play space distribution, and
- identifies gaps in play space distribution in Maryborough.

Location of play spaces in Central Goldfields Shire

The Central Goldfields Shire has 22 play spaces distributed over eight localities. The three localities that are the main population centres are:

- Maryborough with eleven play spaces,
- Carisbrook with four play spaces, and
- Dunolly, with two play spaces.

The following localities have one play space each:

- Bealiba
- Bowenvale/Timor
- Majorca
- Daisy Hill
- Talbot

The following maps show the distribution of play spaces across the Shire.

Map 1. Location of existing play spaces across Central Goldfields Shire

Map 2. Play spaces in Maryborough and Carisbrook.

Schools

Bealiba, Timor, Talbot, Maryborough, Carisbrook, and Dunolly also have schools which provide play opportunities during school hours. These do not form part of this project but are mentioned for reference where appropriate.

Recreation Reserves

- There are a number of towns which also have play spaces at recreational reserves. These need to be considered as complimentary to town 'play spaces' as they serve an additional purpose by offering amenities that encourage mothers to participate in sport and/or volunteer at the adjoining recreation reserve.
- Access to play spaces at recreation reserves aligns with Council's Fair Access Policy and should be encouraged.

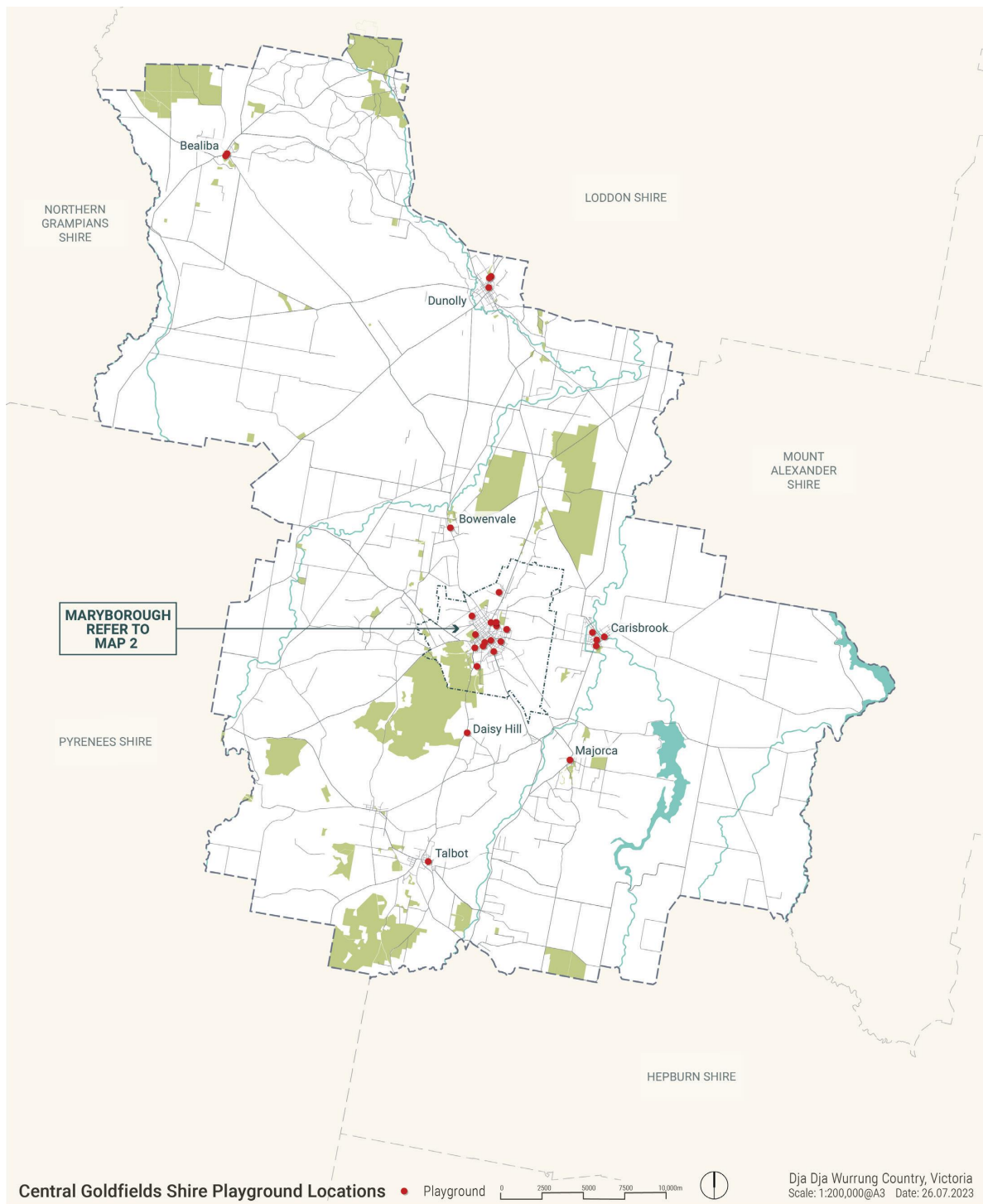




CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS
PLAY STRATEGY 2023

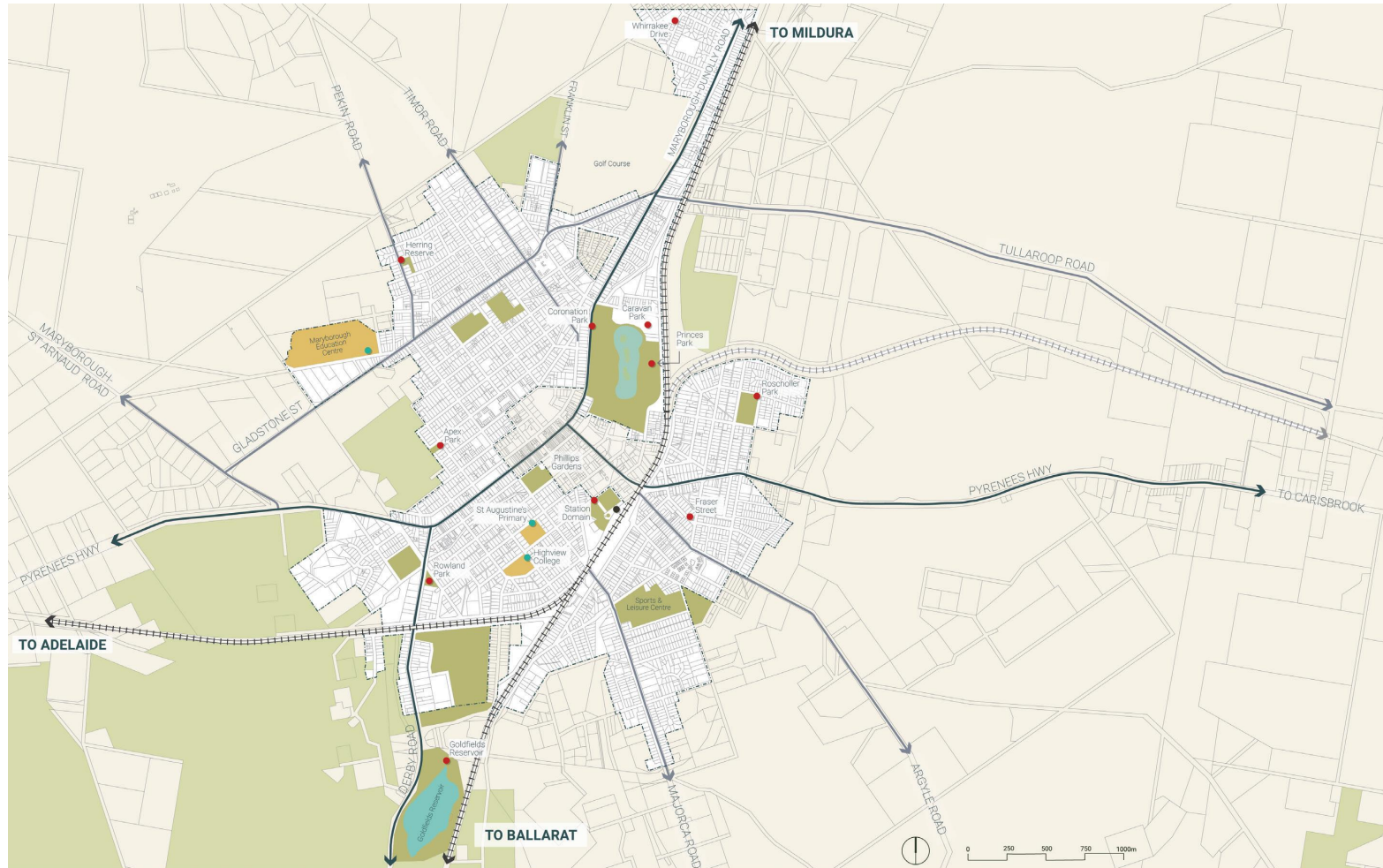
DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING PLAY SPACES

Map. 1 Location of existing play spaces across Central Goldfields Shire



Map 2. Play spaces in Maryborough and Carisbrook

DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING PLAY SPACES



Maryborough Playgrounds
Preliminary Distribution Map
Dja Dja Wurrung Country, Victoria

LEGEND

- Residential Boundary
- Existing Playgrounds
- School/Education Playground

- Public Parks & Recreation Reserves
- State Reserves
- Water Body

- Railway Station
- Railway Line
- Old Railway Line
- Highway
- Road



Date: 06.07.2023 Scale: 1:20,000@A3



DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING PLAY SPACES

Residential catchments and gaps in walkability

The residential area around each play space is described in this Strategy as its 'catchment', or 'walkable catchment'. Ideally residents can walk or from home to at least one play space.

Some residential areas are limited by boundaries or barriers that can limit the free movement of children and families around the neighbourhood, preventing them from reaching parks and play spaces. Such barriers include:

- busy roads,
- railway lines,
- canals or water bodies, or
- other barriers to movement, especially to children and people with mobility restrictions.
- Sometimes the street layout also makes it more difficult to walk or ride easily to a play space from home.

Urban Centres

In line with Victorian Government Policy on 20-minute neighbourhoods, residents (in the larger town centres) should be able to walk or ride to at least one park within their immediate residential area.

Maryborough

As Maryborough is the largest town in the Shire, with 11 play spaces, the distribution of play spaces in relation to residential areas has been analysed in some detail. Such towns ideally provide a number of playspaces, reasonably equitably distributed across the urban residential areas.

Residential areas more than approximately 500m from a play space have been mapped for Maryborough and these are described as Gaps in Walkability.

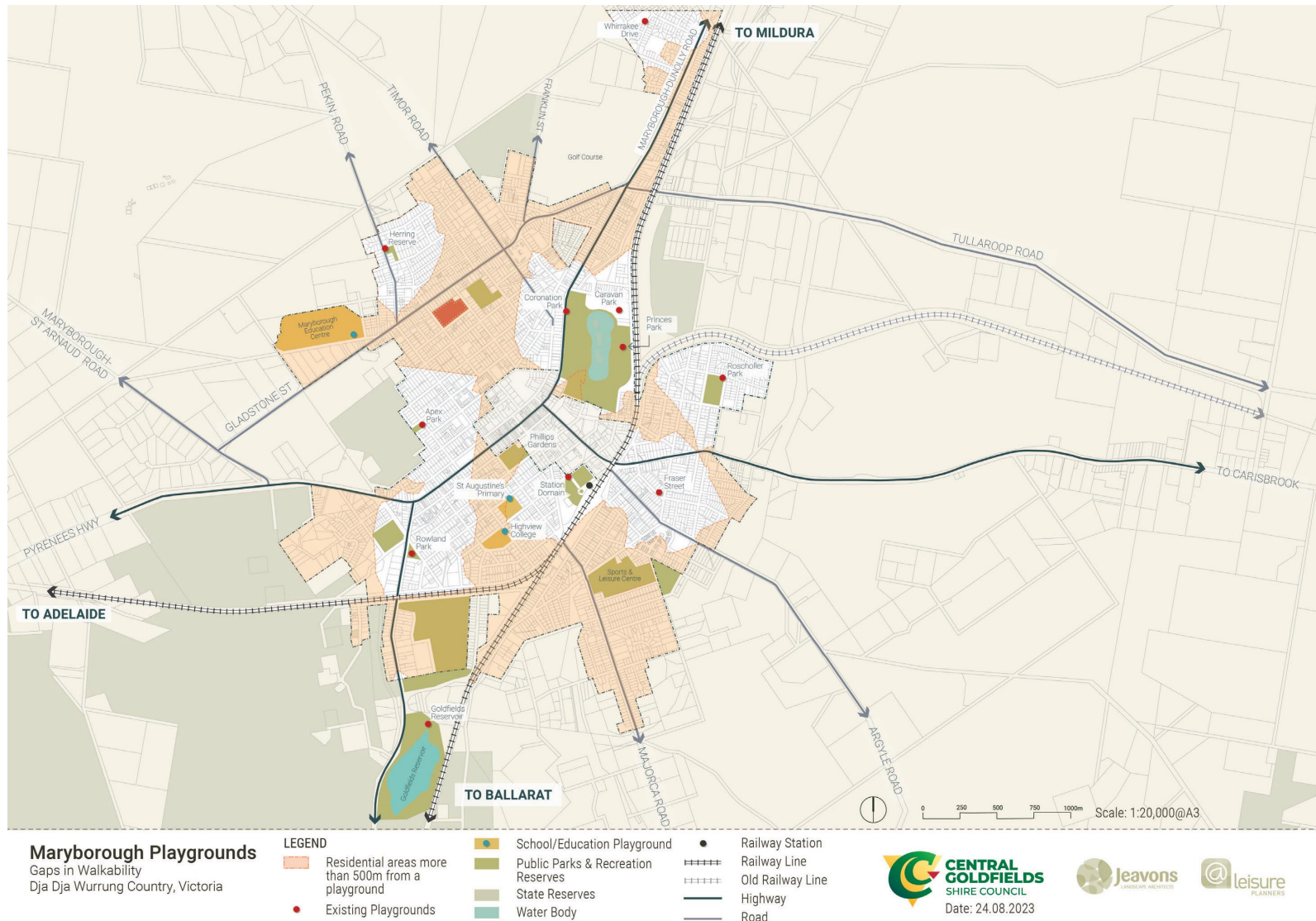
Map 3 shows that some residential areas lack easy access to a play space within approximately 500m from home.

Refer to Map 3.



Map 3. Gaps in Walkability to Play Spaces - Maryborough

DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING PLAY SPACES





DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING PLAY SPACES

Addressing the gaps in play space distribution in Maryborough

There are three areas of Maryborough lacking access to a play space, as shown in Map 4 following.

Map 4 below identifies three parks that currently do not have play spaces and which are located in areas that do not have easy access to a playground. These are:

- A. Jack Pascoe Reserve/ Maryborough Sport and Leisure Centre Reserve (Cnr Majorca and Gillies Sts.)
- B. California Gully Recreation Reserve on Gladstone Lane (or the adjacent Howson Reserve Memorial Park)
- C. Ron Sinclair Reserve (Frost Ave, Crimea St, Clarke St and Sebastopol Rd).

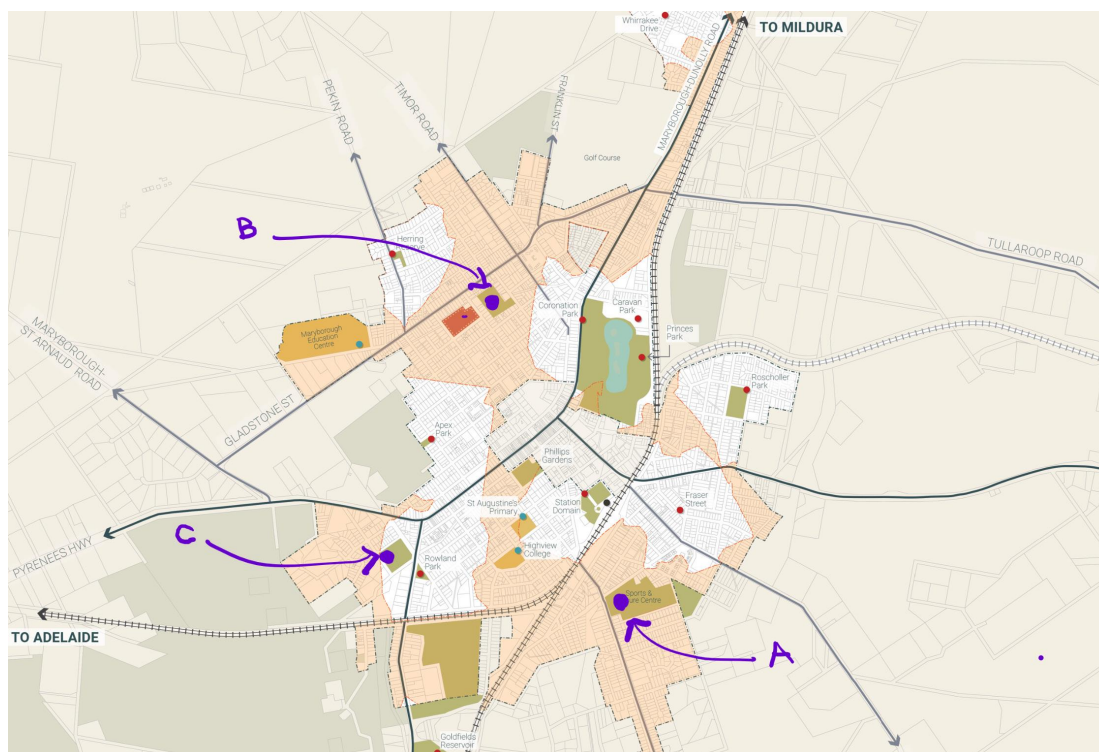
Of these, Jack Pascoe Reserve /Maryborough Sport and Leisure Centre is considered to be a priority for re-development as a new District/ Regional Park and play space.

The other two reserves are owned or managed by Council and not available for this purpose.

Addressing many of these gaps in distribution may not be feasible in the foreseeable future and generally it will be preferred that the Shire places a priority on improving the quality of existing play spaces.

However, the provision of an additional play space at Jack Pascoe Reserve is considered a strategic opportunity to address a distribution gap.

Map 4. Preliminary Recommendations for Future Play Space Developments





DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING PLAY SPACES

Rural localities

Rural localities should have one centrally located play space.

It is realistic for Central Goldfields Shire to provide one high quality play space, centrally located in each rural locality.

In rural localities it is not feasible to offer play spaces within walking distance of homes.

Typically, children in these more rural localities may have access a wider range of outdoor environments for play than children living in towns.

Play spaces are still important social areas, enabling interaction with other children and families.

Dunolly, Timor, Talbot, and Bealiba have school grounds which offer hard courts and play equipment. Unfortunately, not all schools encourage use by the community after hours, and public access would need to be negotiated on a school-by-school basis.

In the next chapter (the Play Space Strategy), the Core Principles and the Classification Hierarchy sets out this information on affecting play space distribution in more detail.





GAPS IN PLAY SPACE QUALITY

Play Space Assessments

As part of this project the consultants undertook on site inspection and assessment of all public play spaces in the Shire.

VOLUME 3. Play Space Assessments Includes reports on the quality of each Council managed play space in the Shire, with recommendations for improvements.

This assessment process, along with the results of the consultation process and other Shire information highlighted a number of issues concerning gaps in the quality of play spaces. A very brief summary of these is included below.

DESIGN FOR DIVERSITY & NATURE

There is a need for better park design – attention to the design of the whole park rather than just the play equipment; more trees, vegetation, amenity, and plant species selection that provides play materials and visual interest.

There is a general lack of diversity and play value in play spaces

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

There are no accessible, inclusive play opportunities in the Shire.

There is an overall need for accessible, inclusive parks and play spaces with paths, furniture and amenities and play elements that are usable by families and people with a disability.

DESIGN FOR SPECIFIC AGE GROUPS

There are few options catering for older children, with limited challenge, and few hard courts

Options for younger children are also limited, with few items designed for role play/pretend play.

EQUIPMENT

More swings are required overall, with more choice in styles and seat types.

FURNITURE

Few sites have tables as well as seats. Tables are important to support a range of activities, to include older adults and people with disability, and allow use of parks for family gatherings away from home.



GAPS IN PLAY SPACE QUALITY

PATHS

Few spaces have paths. Paths are crucial in access and inclusion and benefit a variety of groups, and extend play

AGEING INFRA- STRUCTURE

The Shire's play infrastructure is ageing and in need of updating. The existing amenities are not consistent between parks.

FENCES

Fencing is in high demand, but how play spaces are fenced requires more thoughtful design

Issues regarding quality in play space design have also been addressed in more detail in the following sections on Strategy and the Design Guidelines in this Volume 1.



Strategic Framework

This whole Section constitutes the Play Space Strategy for Central Goldfields Shire Council.

It contains policy recommendations to address a wide range of issues and processes that affect play space provision in the Shire.

Part 5 includes recommendations for Planning and Design Processes

Part 6 includes recommendations for Management, budgeting and maintenance processes within Council that affect play spaces

Part 7 identifies:

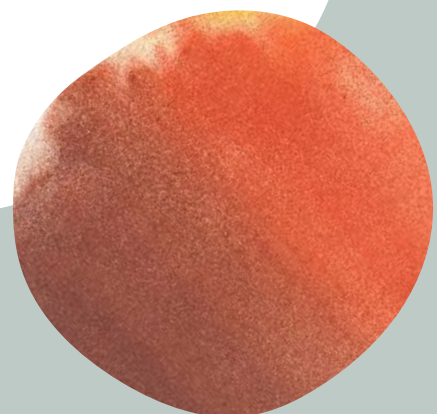
- Core principles,
- The catchment hierarchy/classification for play spaces
- Policy and Service Standards relating to the classification of play spaces.

Part 8 describes the detailed Key Goals and Action Plan.

These Shire-wide actions encompass both management processes and approaches to design of play spaces.

Part 9 is the Implementation Plan. This contains:

- a high level summary of what has been recommended for each reserve (as per the recommendations from Volume 3), followed by
- the more detailed tasks including indicative budgets, timelines and priorities.





PLANNING AND DESIGN PROCESSES

This section introduces a series of recommendations to address planning, design and procurement processes within Council that impact on play.

Create a Play Advisory Group

The nature of existing facilities suggests that play projects would be best overseen by a multidisciplinary team within Council, using designers experienced in early childhood development, universal design and horticulture, and drawing on experience from those who manage parks and play spaces.

A CGSC play advisory group should be created. This advisory team should comprise members from recreation planning, playground maintenance, capital improvements and, early childhood/family services staff as a minimum, and be complemented by staff trained in universal design.

This team's responsibility could include:

- Overseeing the implementation and continual monitoring of this play strategy,
- Overseeing budgeting for parks as a whole, across Council, and including all design elements within parks,
- Preparing/ approving design briefs for whole-of-park master plans and all play space designs,
- Ensuring all decisions are made strategically and together with all team members,
- Conducting community engagement or co-design within the overarching strategic parameters established by this strategy, and
- Procuring a specialist designer with demonstrated experience in universal design, child development and horticulture, for all play spaces,

Consider the nearby play spaces in a locality

The design of any one space must complement any adjacent space or other play space in the locality. Before site design commences, a strategic assessment of the space and its relationship with others is required. Any new design must also be consistent with this Play Spaces Strategy, namely:

- The service standards
- Locality assessments and site-specific directions, and
- Design guidelines.

This assessment of context needs to occur before community engagement or co-design processes commence and will provide a strategic backdrop to the local knowledge and site-specific preferences of current residents.

Prepare a Design Brief

Common issues about design and quality are best addressed by a clear brief.

The brief should require designers to address core components of this play spaces strategy:

- Core service levels,
- Design guidelines, and
- Specific directions from Volume 3 Play Assessment for the locality or the specific site.

The design brief should address the following as a minimum:

- A path network,
- Access into, around the play space and onto any equipment,
- Social and support and physical activities,
- Diverse play opportunities,
- Landscape elements and amenity, trees and vegetation for play value.



PLANNING AND DESIGN PROCESSES

Prepare a master plan for the whole park should be prepared before designing a play space

A master plan outlines the future directions for a site.

A master plan for the whole park should be prepared before designing a play space.

The amenity and functionality of a whole park usually outweighs the importance of the play equipment within the park

The task should be seen as bigger than simply installing play equipment

Take a strategic approach to upgrades

Ad hoc additions are not the optimal way to maximise play value, inclusion and functionality in parks. When funding becomes available for specific new components such as:

- Paths
- Play equipment
- Fencing
- Drinking fountains
- Fitness equipment
- Skate facilities
- Shade, or
- Furniture
- these separate elements should only be introduced in keeping with a master plan or design that has planned for them. They should not be randomly placed around a park.

Ask the experts

All park upgrades, including play opportunities, need design and planning expertise

In many Councils, the design of play spaces or small parks is treated as a single, isolated, small-budget project and procured from an external design firm or a play equipment supplier.

The design brief is frequently determined by community consultation, and this is frequently limited to questions about the colour of equipment and a limited choice of products.

This process does not produce the best outcomes for the community.

Even in small parks and play space projects, the input of professionals with expertise and experience in design for play and child development, access and inclusion, and horticulture, is essential.





MANAGEMENT PROCESSES

The Shire maintains play equipment and surfaces on a regular basis.

During these site inspections, many equipment items were noted as aging but have been kept in good condition.

Budget Sources

There are currently two sources of funding that relate to this Strategy:

- Ongoing maintenance costs, and
- Capital improvements.

Ongoing maintenance

As part of its asset management planning, Council should seek to fund its play spaces in a manner that meets the needs of the community and ensures quality is maintained.

With limited resources, maintaining a network of playspaces can be complicated and funding needs to stretch across multiple locations and a wide range of infrastructure. As part of its asset management, Council's funding needs to consider activities including inspections, repairs, maintenance, urgent safety issues in addition to removal and replacement of equipment.

Capital Improvements

Council also invests in its play spaces through the capital works program.

This is determined as part of a coordinated approach to asset management, with the capital budget broken into three categories:

- Asset renewals (replacing like for like)
- Asset upgrades (upgrading an existing asset to meet community needs or current standards)
- New works (creating a new asset when none currently exists)

The Capital Works program forms part of the annual budget and all play space improvements recommended in this strategy need to be considered as part of Council's overall budget.

Where possible, Council's forward planning should seek to align play space improvements with path upgrades, signage works and tree planting within the same reserve to encourage a coordinated approach to site improvements.

Council's capital works funding is often complimented by grant funding received from programs funded by external agencies, including the State and Federal Governments.

In particular, securing external funding is critical to delivering play space upgrades and new works. By adopting a strategic approach to play space improvements Council will be in the best possible pace to secure funding that compliments its own contribution towards the capital works program.



MANAGEMENT PROCESSES

Playspace information and promotion

Council should provide more information about each play space and its features:

- on Council's website and
- on-site signage.

Currently information about existing play spaces is lacking.

In order to plan their trip, residents and visitors need information about the availability of fences, accessible equipment, picnic facilities, age groups catered for, shelters and toilets.

Many families depend upon these facilities, for an outing to even be a possibility. This information should be available on Council's Website.

The parks themselves need signs. These should be of a clear, graphically unified design.

Life expectancy and play space replacement plan

As a general guide, play equipment frequently has a life expectancy of around 15 years, (but this depends on the item and materials).

The older the equipment the less likely it will meet current Playground Standards which are reviewed every 5 years. There are multiple spaces in the Shire where the equipment is more than 20 years old.

The Implementation Plan in this report summarises the recommendations for each play space and includes a very high-level budget cost estimate.

The details explaining the recommendations for each site are found in Volume 3- Play Assessments.

When equipment needs to be removed

When an item of equipment needs to be removed, remove all parts of the structure including old footings, brackets, and other elements. Leaving old remnants in place, especially at ground level and partially hidden in mulch, can be a hazard.

Collect additional data during maintenance inspections

Regular maintenance inspections allow council to collect other data useful for planning and management.

Council should consider including additional information in the brief for the annual safety audit checklist, which they can use to monitor information important for planning and asset management, such as:

- accessibility into the park and to play spaces and social spaces ,
- presence of fences, lights and tables, and
- asset life or replacement date.

In this way, the Council can monitor the performance of play spaces (from an access point of view, for example) over time.

Inspections and maintenance

Play equipment areas and associated infrastructure must be regularly maintained in accordance with AS 4685. 0:2017- Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance, and operation.

**MANAGEMENT PROCESSES****Inspections required by the Australian Standards**

INSPECTION TYPE	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCY
Post Installation	Conducted prior to opening a new play space, this verifies that the play space complies with current Standards.	Post opening
Comprehensive inspections		
Routine Inspections	Regular visual inspections for wear and tear, vandalism or other damage. These can be carried out by operational staff while on site carrying out other tasks.	Whenever staff are in the park - Weekly -
Operational Inspection	Less frequent, possibly quarterly inspections for adequacy of surfaces, more serious structural defects, wear on moving parts, corrosion, fraying, missing components, loose bolts etc.	Quarterly
Comprehensive Annual Inspection	These checks cover all of the above, as well as overall conformance of equipment and surfaces with current standards.	Annual
Impact testing for unitary (rubber or synthetic) surfacing	Unitary surfaces need to be impact tested at least every three years for impact attenuation.	Every three years



CORE PRINCIPLES FOR PLAY PROVISION



Equitable provision and distribution across the Shire

The distribution of play opportunities needs to be realistic in terms of resources, considering the difficulty of equating rural localities with larger town centres.

Maryborough and Carisbrook

Play opportunities within Maryborough and Carisbrook should be located so that all residents ideally have a play space within walking distance from home.

The walking distances may be defined as ideally within 500m from home, but there will be instances where this is not achievable.

This walkability goal aligns with Victorian State Government policy on '20-minute neighbourhoods'. These are all about 'living locally' and enabling people to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute return walk from home.

Rural localities

In rural localities such as Bealiba, Dunolly, Daisy Hill, Bowenvale/Timor Majorca and Talbot, aim to offer one central play space located close to other community hub/focal points (such as a hall, community centre, or sports club) or in the main street of the town.



Diversity of opportunity and setting types

Play spaces need to offer a diverse choice of opportunities for outdoor play, social interaction, recreation and engagement with nature.

Play Spaces should provide a balance of elements including paths, vegetation and landscape features, social infrastructure, physical challenges, and where possible community art.

Diverse landscape settings should range from open grassy and sunny spaces to 'wilder', more natural/forested areas, from garden and ornamental settings to more paved/ urban areas.

This principle needs to be considered at two levels:

- the macro level, i.e., the choice of settings and opportunities from park to park, across the municipality, as well as
- at the micro level. For example, even in an open site, which relies mainly on play equipment to provide the main activities, pockets of vegetation will provide additional, close-up interest and play opportunities.



CORE PRINCIPLES FOR PLAY PROVISION



Play spaces need to meet the diverse needs of all ages, abilities, and genders

All spaces should provide some opportunities that are usable by preschool, school aged children, teens and older adults. Some sites may focus more on one age group than another, considering other spaces nearby, and the particular local context.

In areas experiencing population growth and increased housing density, the design of parks for play needs to consider that residents will have fewer opportunities for outdoor play at home. The landscape settings of parks need to accommodate a wider range of needs, such as gardening and sand and nature play.

Service standards are provided to ensure the quality of spaces is equitable across all spaces. These are described in a later section.



Play spaces need to be accessible to people with disabilities

All play spaces need to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in play and social activities. Parks and play spaces need to be designed using Universal Design Principles.

The higher the level in the catchment hierarchy, (see the following section) the more accessible and inclusive the space needs to be.

Access to social areas such as seating areas, shelters, and toilets via paths is a high priority.



Paths are a fundamental requirement in parks

All parks need identifiable, accessible paths of travel enabling people with disabilities to:

- Enter the park from adjacent footpaths or car parks
- Move around within the park
- Use all amenities
- Access any designated play space, hardcourt, skate, or bike area
- Access a choice of play opportunities.



Priority Parks need more attention

Some parks are considered to be a higher social priority than others. These include parks and play spaces in residential areas where:

- There are fewer parks and play spaces
- There is a lack of other opportunities for children to play outdoors
- There are higher levels of social disadvantage, and
- Where only one park serves a larger catchment and residents depend upon that one park

The design of those parks and play spaces that do exist requires more careful attention to the principles contained in this report.



CORE PRINCIPLES FOR PLAY PROVISION



Play Value - play is more than play equipment

Play encompasses a diverse range of activities and behaviours that vary significantly across age groups and individuals, and these are by no means limited to play equipment.

By broadening the approach to play provision, CGS will derive better value from parks and open space than from a focus solely on play equipment, which offers many benefits but has inherent limitations.

In particular, there are benefits from designing settings that carefully consider the connections and relationships between all elements within a space, extending the play from equipment and structures out into a more complex landscape.

Every park play space must be designed to accommodate and foster a range of types of play, such as:

- physical activity, movement, and challenge
- imaginative/pretend/role play, and
- sensory/creative/imaginative play
- play opportunities including play equipment should be designed and selected to:
 - facilitate a range of specific activities or development opportunities and maximise the play value to all users,
 - accommodate group play and social interaction, as well as quiet nooks for individual respite and contemplation,
 - maximise the opportunities for children with disabilities to access and use play spaces, and to play alongside others, and
 - be connected by paths to social areas, ball courts, other equipment, and the street.
- Paths provided in parks and play spaces should be designed to accommodate wheeled toys, walking, or cycling.



The whole park is for play

As introduced above, when planning for play, the entire park needs to be considered for the opportunities it could present to users. These opportunities include:

- Trees, planting, and natural areas
- Path systems
- Hard surfaces
- Open areas of lawn
- Loose materials, and
- Terrain.

These opportunities need to be planned to include people with a disability and all age groups, and how everyone can enjoy these elements.

By considering these diverse elements as part of the conscious design for play, the Shire will be able to deliver more value from the investment in both parks and play.



CORE PRINCIPLES FOR PLAY PROVISION



Environmental integrity, amenity planting, and access to nature are important play space features

In all spaces, the design should include trees and other landscape elements.

Parks and play spaces can enhance and encourage children's contact and interaction with nature and can provide loose materials that can be used in play.

Plant materials, especially flowering plants, those with interesting textures, bark or fruit and scents significantly enhance the visual and environmental amenity and play value of parks.

Trees have many purposes in parks, including shade, significant cooling, wind breaks, habitat, screening, and play opportunities. They need to be carefully selected in order to fulfill these purposes, and a range of species may be required for in any one park for different situations.

Trees always need to be able to survive the local conditions and to contribute to the local ecosystem.

More information on design elements in parks for play is included in the Appendix 3 to this Volume.



PLAY SPACE CLASSIFICATION AND SERVICE STANDARDS

INTRODUCING PLAY SPACE CLASSIFICATIONS

Parks and play spaces have been classified into a hierarchy, based on their catchment.

The catchment hierarchy of a space is determined by its sphere of influence, and how far people are likely to travel to it.

Local play spaces for example, principally serve residents in the immediate neighbourhood and within walking distance.

District and regional parks and play spaces, on the other hand, will attract people who may drive from further afield. Because they may stay for longer visits, they will need support facilities like toilets, shelter etc.

These hierarchies can be applied to the play space facilities themselves, as well as the parks in which they sit. This allows consistency in provision across the Shire and is a tool to manage investment and maintenance.

The catchment hierarchy is used to guide investment decisions (service standards), by specifying the standard of development appropriate for each level in the park hierarchy.

These 'Service Standards' are also explained in this section.

The preferred catchment hierarchy for play spaces in the Central Goldfields Shire has the following three levels.

- Regional
- District, and
- Local

These catchments are defined in the table below

Proposed catchment hierarchy classifications for play spaces in Goldfields Shire

Catchment Hierarchy	Definition	Mode of travel and facilities
REGIONAL	<p>Servicing the whole municipality, as well as from further afield.</p> <p>The sphere of influence of a regional space is likely to be larger than the neighbouring residential areas, due the significance of the space, its scale, and the quality of features or facilities.</p>	<p>You would expect people to travel by car from other locations, including outside the municipality.</p> <p>Facilities that support a longer length of stay and larger number of users are therefore needed.</p>
DISTRICT	<p>Servicing a wider area than the suburb in which it is located.</p> <p>This classification also can apply to play spaces in rural localities, with only one central space that services outlying communities.</p>	<p>Users are likely to travel by car from other localities to use these spaces.</p> <p>These parks also need to provide facilities for a longer length of stay, especially in rural localities.</p> <p>They may often be co-located with sports or other community facilities.</p>
LOCAL	<p>Servicing the immediate residential area within walking distance.</p> <p>Also known as neighbourhood parks. This classification applies to play spaces which are typically small, but on which many families depend.</p>	<p>Users are expected to walk or cycle to the park from home and would stay a relatively short time.</p> <p>In urban townships multiple spaces will be required. These need to be equitably distributed across the locality.</p>



PLAY SPACE CLASSIFICATION AND SERVICE STANDARDS

INTRODUCING THE SERVICE STANDARDS

Standards for Provision and Service have been provided here for play spaces for each level in the catchment hierarchy.

Seven separate, detailed tables have been included overleaf. These tables summarise policy recommendations for the following elements in play spaces, showing the different expectations for the three different levels in the catchment hierarchy.

ELEMENTS

1. Overall provision /distribution of play spaces

This table shows:

- The recommended sizes for parks
- How play spaces should be distributed within residential areas
- Location of play spaces within a local catchment to ensure equitable access
- Where play spaces should be located in relation to the local street network, for both prominence and surveillance
- How play spaces should be located in the context of different densities of housing, where applicable.

2. Physical access requirements of play spaces

This table shows:

- Access to the park itself from further afield
- Access into the park
- Physical access to facilities, park features and activities
- Paths and trails for specific purposes.

3. Social and support facilities in play spaces

This table shows:

- A basic range of the facilities central to play spaces that encourage social interaction
- These also support members of a family who may not be able to participate in physical activities.

4. Inclusive features of play spaces

This table adds recommendations for park and play space design that make a play space visit easier, more fun and more comfortable for people living with a range of disabilities, and of any age or gender.

- These are different from the physical access requirements described above.
- Although many of these are listed in the social support facilities and other groups, they are described here in more detail order to emphasise their importance.

5. Environmental/natural elements in play spaces

This table shows:

- Natural elements that support the purpose of play,
- They also enhance environmental education, visual amenity and character, shade, environmental diversity, and habitat.

6. Physical activities in play spaces

This table provides a guide to ensure that each level in the hierarchy consciously provides a choice of physical activity types.

7. A summary of key features in play spaces

This table shows:

- Target age groups and broad categories/different types of play, to ensure that play spaces provide diverse opportunities.

**SERVICE STANDARD 1 - PROVISION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Size and space for a range of activities Parks should large enough to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for a range of activities suited to people of all ages and abilities. • Locate these so activities (such as children's play, active equipment areas, ball game areas, dog off leash areas, quiet seating etc.) do not conflict with one another. • Provide winter sun as well as summer shade • Solar access for users and vegetation. • Include deep soil and enough space for trees and vegetation. • One large public space within a catchment is preferred over multiple, scattered smaller spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum size for new parks for play: 1ha. unencumbered land. • See range of activities principle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per local • The minimum park size for new parks for play: 1ha. • Unencumbered land; larger where required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum park size for new parks for play: 1ha. Unencumbered land. May be larger sites where required. • May have a wider range of activities than local sites with more extensive provision for different ages, and include larger and more complex, unique or expensive features such as water.
Distribution / Housing Density <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks for play should serve all residential areas and be accessible without having to cross a major road, water way or railway. • Prioritise provision in areas with a low SEIFA index, high proportion of children, people with a disability and higher-density areas with limited open space options. 	In Maryborough <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide parks for play within approximately 500m distance from residences, and without having to cross a major barrier, arterial road, water way or railway. • Where housing is medium density, estates must also include outdoor ground floor and their own communal spaces for play and social interaction, and particular consideration given to design and quality due to dependence. • Parks must be served by foot or shared paths. • Play spaces in areas of high dependence must be designed to maximise the opportunities for play, access, social interaction, and environmental considerations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One per municipality • No minimum distance threshold 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum park size for new parks for play: 1ha. Unencumbered land. May be larger sites where required. • May have a wider range of activities than local sites with more extensive provision for different ages, and include larger and more complex, unique or expensive features such as water.

**SERVICE STANDARD 1 CONT. PROVISION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Location within Catchment / Co-location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks for play should be centrally located within the catchment defined by roads and other barriers to access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be co-located with/ abutting encumbered land, a sports park, or adjacent to a waterway corridor. Locate in prominent locations on local streets or larger roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-located near community facilities/ hall/ shops etc. Co-located with sporting or other recreation facilities, foreshore etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be co-located with a major bushland, with unique, iconic landscape setting. Can be located on collector/arterial roads, and public transport and off-road trail routes.
Location in street network for prominence and surveillance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks for play should be prominent and at least two (ideally three) sides of the park bounded by streets rather than private property. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good views into the site Overlooked by fronts of houses. Separated from homes by a road or a "paper road" or "postie lane". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per local Located on larger roads for prominence, and on public transport and off-road trail routes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites with high visibility preferred. Clear signage if through residential streets. Not with narrow entries or "battle axe" blocks. May be located in conjunction with other attractions.
Other site selection / provision issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is only one park for play in a catchment, it must offer a wide choice of opportunities for social, physical, and environmental activities and to suit multiple age groups. See Dependence principle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a catchment has more than one play area, ensure diversity in landscape setting type, range of activities, and target user groups can vary between sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If multiple parks for play in one catchment, sites should have different landscape setting types. Select one site per catchment that is suitable /economical to be fully fenced, to help meet inclusion criteria See inclusion principle. Some car parking and picnic facilities commensurate with longer duration stay. May include full hard courts and some bike or skate facility, or interactive water play infrastructure. May include gym equipment where there is a perimeter exercise path. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will need car parking and facilities commensurate with longer duration stay. Higher level of access and inclusion expected, in social facilities, play experiences, access to nature etc. May include interactive water play structure, and or bike or skate facility. May include gym equipment where there is a perimeter exercise path.

**SERVICE STANDARD 2 - PHYSICAL ACCESS REQUIREMENTS IN PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Car Parking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide car parking immediately adjacent to parks for play for district and regional spaces. • Provide an accessible car space immediately adjacent, on an accessible path of travel for district and regional spaces. 	x	✓	✓
Bicycle Parking / Rails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle parking/ rails at the entry to the park 	x	✓	✓
Site served by a path or shared trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect parks for play to a shared trail network. • Locate parks for play where streets have an accessible path network 	✓	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- x Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 2 CONT. PHYSICAL ACCESS REQUIREMENTS IN PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Accessible and identifiable entry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an accessible path of travel into the park to a play space from a footpath and road. Provide easily identifiable points of access into the park and to play space. 	✓	✓	✓
Accessible internal network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an accessible path that links shade, seats, tables, BBQ water and social facilities. Provide a clear path definition to the path edge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where these elements are provided 	✓	✓
Site served by a path or shared trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paths should provide access to social and support facilities: any shelters, toilets, tables and seats, drinking fountains, a choice of play activities, physical activities such as hard courts, and nature/ environmental elements, with wayfinding elements. Any easily accessible play equipment i.e., ground level panels, underdeck cubbies, basket swing, accessible carousel etc. to be served by a path. 	✓	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 2 CONT. PHYSICAL ACCESS REQUIREMENTS IN PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Park perimeter path- for exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A perimeter path (offering an independent circuit) preferably of consolidated gravel should provide for jogging and walking children on bicycles, and wheeled toys around larger parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every park over 1ha 	✓	✓
Accessible gates/entries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fences, gates, entries, and placement of bollards, or chicanes (if provided) should be suitable for people to access with mobility devices. Where there are gates, design latches so people using wheelchairs can enter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anywhere parks or play spaces have fences or walls 	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 3 - SOCIAL / SUPPORT FACILITIES IN PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Park Name Signs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On all parks for play Provide a consistent graphic design across the whole municipality 	✓	✓	✓
Central social area with tables and seats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position a social area centrally, to enable people of all ages and abilities to take part in social activities and to view/supervise play on play equipment, hard courts and skate and nature. Provide multiple (depending upon the size of play space) accessible tables and seats in a choice of sun and shade. Position some seats in groups, at right angles or facing, with backs and arm rests. 	✓	✓	✓
Security Lighting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an accessible drinking tap easily reached from a mobility device and located on a path. 	✗	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 3 - SOCIAL / SUPPORT FACILITIES IN PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Built Shade / Shelter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide security lighting at each major park entry to and in social hub 	• Desirable	✓	✓
BBQ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a BBQ is provided locate this with a shelter, picnic tables and seating, accessible for people of all ages and abilities, allowing or adequate manoeuvring space (unimpeded by shelter supports) 	✗	✓	✓
Toilets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilets are to be wheelchair accessible, gender-neutral, and family friendly 	✗	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 3 - SOCIAL / SUPPORT FACILITIES IN PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Focal age groups served <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide infrastructure suited to all ages. Where there are multiple sites within one catchment, each site can focus on different key age groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> focus on children / teens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all ages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all ages
Drinking Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an accessible drinking tap easily reached from a mobility device and located on a path. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desirable 	✓	✓
Dog-off leash area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide designated areas for dog exercise and socialization away from play equipment, to minimise conflicts. 	✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected and appropriate sites only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected and appropriate sites only

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 4 - INCLUSIVE ELEMENTS FOR PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Fencing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selectively fence some parks for play across the Shire. • Where a fence is required, design this carefully and ideally fence the whole perimeter of (smaller) parks. • On larger sites, place fences carefully to include a wide selection of opportunities including play options, lawn, trees, shade, seating, a table, etc). • Do not cage in small areas that only include play equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only where necessary for safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fence on site per locality / catchment 	✓
Central social hub with tables, shelter, and seats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a central, accessible, social area. • Shelters, tables and seating should be provided at the heart of the space and have adequate space around for manoeuvring. • Seats and tables should be served by a path. Pavement under seats should extend to provide space for a person with a mobility aid to sit next to other users or enable a person to transfer onto the seat. • Design of shop counters/ interactive items and siting should allow for front on use from a wheelchair, and in a position next to companions. • Provide rails and supports for resting and support. • Some seats should have arms and backs. 	✓	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 4 CONT. INCLUSIVE ELEMENTS FOR PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Path system and access points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paths are crucial for orientation, and to enable participation in play and social opportunities for users with wheelchairs etc. • Provide an accessible path of travel around the play space connecting social, physical, and environmental elements. • Provide access to some elevated areas, especially in District and Regional parks. • Provide accessible products for all picnic tables, drinking fountains, under deck spaces, shop counters, sand tables and interactive panels. 	✓	✓	✓
Swinging /rotating/ bouncing and/or rocking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a selection of accessible swinging or rotating items such as a bird's nest swing, / hammock or swing seat swing with back support. • Include a rotating item such as a spinner/ accessible carousel. • These items require a path access. 	• Desirable	✓	✓
Access to nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species selection and positioning should enable all users to interact with vegetation and loose materials including elements accessible from wheelchairs or mobility devices. 	• Desirable	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 4 CONT. INCLUSIVE ELEMENTS FOR PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Quiet/ Respite area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide spaces suitable for quiet activities away from boisterous play. • These should provide some degree of seclusion/ separation from busy active zones where people of all ages and abilities may observe without conflicts due to noise or activity. 	• Desirable	✓	✓
Social/ co-operative play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for social interaction for people of different ages and abilities by grouping similar activities together, (e.g., different types of swings) to encourage inclusive group play activities. • Provide role play/pretend play features for children of all abilities. • Provide interactive items so they can be reached front on from a chair or mobility device. • Provide cubbies, shop counters, steering wheels, play vehicles, etc. and items that encourage social interaction, intergenerational play and can be used by more than one person sitting or standing. • Provide interactive play panels/games/ pulleys, which can be accessed from a wheelchair. 	• Desirable	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 5 - NATURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES IN PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Canopy trees for shade and cooling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide canopy trees for shade and cooling. Position carefully to: • Project shade onto play and social/activity areas • Define circuit paths. • Position trees that drop leaves/ fruit / limbs so as not to overhang hard courts, skate facilities or paths to minimise risk of falls and cleaning costs. 	✓	✓	✓
Specimen trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide specimen trees for landscape character, visual appeal, and to enhance spatial interest and complexity. • Provide individually and in groups. • Use trees to emphasise park entries. • Select for bark, fruit, leaf, and habits that provide play material or encourage play. 	✓	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 5 CONT. NATURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES IN PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Irrigated/ managed turf <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a suitable open area for games, kick to kick, and group picnics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desirable – open area may be hard surface if lawn not sustainable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desirable on selected sites 	✓
Hardy flowering plants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide hardy flowering plants for visual amenity, sensory qualities, habitat, play materials Choose plant materials for their flowers, leaves pods etc that are interesting to children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desirable 	✓	✓
Sensory planting/ tall grasses or shrubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide sensory planting for spatial delineation, supply of sensory qualities, habitat and define small spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desirable 	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 5 CONT. NATURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES IN PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Screen planting along boundaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select boundary planting for habitat, screening, and wind breaks. 	✓	✓	✓
Rocks and logs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide rocks and logs and other natural elements for play, perching, habitat, and character. Allow exposure to non-manufactured items, which may change over time, for decision making and open-ended play. 	✓	✓	✓
Loose, natural materials for play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide loose, natural materials for play, e.g., sand, digging patch, loose-leaf litter, twigs, pods and building materials etc., edible plants Position vegetation to define small spaces, provide some lightly screened 'secret spaces' (supervisable). 	• Desirable	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 6 - FACILITIES TO ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Park -perimeter path circuit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a shared perimeter circuit suitable for jogging and walking, children's bicycles, and wheeled toys around parks of 1 ha or greater, separate from any footpath. • Avoid the need for these to cross vehicle access ways. 	• Desirable	✓	✓
Choice of movement types on play equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for spinning, swinging, rocking, sliding, bouncing, balancing, hanging, jumping, wheeling, traversing, running, chasing, stepping. • Ensure some inclusive and social/group options. 	• Ensure variety between sites in the same catchment	✓	✓
Opportunities to climb <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure different heights and degrees of challenge are available for children of different age groups, to climb. 	✓	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 6 CONT. FACILITIES TO ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN PARKS FOR PLAY**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Practice nets/ goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where parks can provide large areas for kick to kick, consider selective provision of nets and goals where conflicts with other users or neighbours can be managed. 	✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected sites
Open grassed area for running/ball games etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an unobstructed flat mown open area desirably 40m in length, away from other activity spaces and houses so as not to discourage kick to kick, or a game of cricket, or football etc. 	✓	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 7 – A SUMMARY OF KEY FEATURES FOR PLAY SPACES**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
A flat, open area, suitable for social games <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide for activities such as running, cricket and kick to kick, touch, football, kites etc. 	✓	✓	✓
A central social space, physical, and environmental elements designed specifically to facilitate play for target age groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide for children from pre-school to early secondary school ages, of all abilities 	✓	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide purpose-built options for teenagers, adults, and older adults of all abilities 	• Desirable	✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide opportunities for adult and child interaction 	✓	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 7 CONT. A SUMMARY OF KEY FEATURES FOR PLAY SPACES**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Opportunities for diverse types of movement and physical activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select items or design for a range of specific activities including. Swinging/ spinning /rocking/ sliding/ agility, bouncing and wheeling etc. 	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities for climbing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a range of climbing and balancing opportunities, suited for different skill levels, on purpose-built play equipment, trees, logs, rocks etc. 	✓	✓	✓
Nature play; natural elements and loose materials for creative/ sensory play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide trees, shrubs and ground covers selected for a range of amenity, climate, habitat and play related benefits. Position vegetation to define small spaces, provide some lightly screened 'secret spaces' (supervisable). Choose plant materials for their flowers, leaves pods etc that are interesting to children. 	✓	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification

**SERVICE STANDARD 7 CONT. A SUMMARY OF KEY FEATURES FOR PLAY SPACES**

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CATCHMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	LOCAL	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Interactive items engaging fine motor skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide interactive Play panels/games/ pulleys, which can be accessed from a wheelchair. 	✓	✓	✓
Features to encourage social/co-operative/pretend play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide cubbies, shop counters, steering wheels, play vehicles, etc. and items that encourage social interaction, intergenerational play and can be used by more than one person sitting or standing. 	✓	✓	✓
Different intensities of social /group activity, ranging from busy and active, to quiet/solitary restful/respite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include small spaces as well as large/ busy/open areas. Provide areas buffered from noisy and boisterous play but with viewing onto activity. 	✓	✓	✓

Explanation of codes

- ✓ Required in all parks of this classification
- ✗ Not required in parks of this classification



GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

Goals

Core goals for the next 10 years are:

- To achieve overall improvement in the budgeting and resourcing for play space provision
- To achieve significant improvement in the quality and diversity of play spaces in Central Goldfields Shire

Action Plan

In order to achieve the over-all goals, numerous Actions are recommended. These are listed in detail overleaf but include the following key points:

Key Actions

- Co-ordinate a multidisciplinary approach to high quality play space provision and design,
- Develop a strategic, well resourced, 10- year play space improvement program,
- Implement master planning for groups of play spaces at the same time, to achieve cost effective improvements
- Renew whole play spaces rather than like-for-like replacements of individual items,
- Implement site specific opportunities to enhance the play value of local parks,
- Enhance the accessibility of play spaces, to be safe, welcoming and inclusive of all members of the community
- Enhance the landscape amenity, play value, and climate responsiveness of local parks through tree planting and vegetation, and
- Provide a select number of fenced play sites that are well designed and promoted

Each of these actions, and their accompanying tasks, is explained in more detail in the tables overleaf.

These overall actions need to be read alongside the specific actions and recommendations that have been discussed for individual sites, in the Play Space Assessment in Volume 3.



GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

IN-HOUSE PLANNING AND RESOURCING

1.

Co-ordinate a multi-disciplinary approach to high quality play spaces

- Establish an internal multi-disciplinary team responsible for championing play, implementing this strategy and overseeing play provision across the Shire including park planning, funding, designing, delivering, asset management, park maintenance and engagement and communication with users and the community.

Include in this group, the following teams to coordinate all aspects of play:

- Recreation planning
- Strategic planning
- Parks and open space
- Horticulture
- Access and Inclusion
- Family services /Early years
- Youth
- Asset management
- Park maintenance
- Engineering
- Communications
- This multi-disciplinary team should be utilised on all new play space projects, with input from selected members of this group used to inform play space upgrades as required.

2.

Develop a strategic 10-year play space improvement program

- Develop a 10-year play space improvement and resourcing program as part of Council's integrated asset planning.
- Use the priority system as outlined in the Recommendations by Reserve table.
- Draw on recommendations in this Strategy to inform future funding applications that support delivery of Council's capital works program.
- Develop a clear communication plan, both internally and with the community about the recommended practice around play.
- Consider providing a training program about play for the staff group responsible for play provision. This should cover the importance of play, and the basics of play space design and provision for different ages and abilities.



GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

IN-HOUSE PLANNING AND RESOURCING

3.

Continue to develop strategic partnerships

- Build on strategic partnerships with other government departments and organisations that can contribute to funding, better quality and cost-effective service delivery of play opportunities.
- Actively seek out joint funding and opportunities for joint use agreements, programs and use of land for play.
- Talk to local schools regarding agreements to access school grounds.

4.

Promote play space information on council's web site

- provide detailed information about each play space in a directory and web site including details that are typically sought by families planning trips to play spaces, such as availability of fences, shelters, toilets, nature and accessibility of equipment, picnic facilities, shade etc.

5.

Consider a New Play Space for Maryborough

- Review the Distribution recommendations in this report and subject to funding being available, consider new developments for one proposed new play space in Maryborough.



GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

STRATEGIC RENEWALS AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS

6.

Cost effective master planning and improvements of groups of play spaces

- Consider preparing plans for site upgrades in 'batches' as part of Council's asset planning.
- This involves identifying multiple sites of the highest priority for upgrade over the next two years, and the following 4 or 5 sites that will be upgraded in the following two years for the purposes of budgeting. This 'batch approach' provides ample time for plans to be prepared, for internal officers to be aligned, for the community to be engaged, and funds to be approved. By commissioning designs in batches, the Shire will receive better value from the design process.
- Ensure design briefs for play spaces include the Service Standards, and Design Guidelines from this Strategy.
- Develop Concept Plans for each park to be upgraded prior to carrying out any work.

7.

Plan whole site renewals rather than like-for-like replacements of items

- As part of Council's overall approach to asset management, take the opportunity to improve the whole park and adding elements other than just play equipment. This may include planting and other landscape elements, paths, furniture, signs, fences, etc.
- Use of standard suites of furniture and fencing products, as described elsewhere in this action list, enables easy replacements, and interchangeability.
- Implement the Service Standards as per this report, according to the level in the catchment hierarchy



GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

STRATEGIC RENEWALS AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS

UPGRADE KEY DESIGN FEATURES

8.

Plan the provision and upgrades of Toilets

- Toilets should only be provided in District and Regional level parks.
- Improve signs and accessibility to toilets.
- Improve access to toilets as part of the redesign process for new and upgraded play spaces
- Review existing toilets to ensure they are safe, family friendly and meet current standards for disability access.
- Select a family friendly, all gender accessible modular toilet product and use this for all future replacements.
- Continue to resource a Shire-wide cleaning, maintenance and repair schedule for toilets.



GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

UPGRADE KEY DESIGN FEATURES

9.

Include a path system as a standard element in all play spaces

- Create a Shire-wide, coherent approach to paths within all parks, and specifically including play spaces. A path system needs to become a standard element in site planning and budgeting, as an inexpensive element in play spaces, which delivers high value to the community.
- Prepare a suite of standard details for paths of various types, across the Shire, to ensure that paths are wide enough, properly graded, durable, maintainable, and placed carefully in every park upgrade.
- Utilise paths in parks and playspaces for a variety of types and purposes, such as for:
 - Access, inclusion and physical connection between elements
 - Wheeled play of all kinds, and hard surfaces for other activities
 - Physical exercise
 - For exploration, and for creating self-contained zones and physical separation of activity areas within a park.
- Position paths carefully and purposefully, to minimise both the cost and the visual intrusion into the space. They must:
 - provide either a continuous loop or terminate in logical locations with turnaround points
 - be designed for convenient, safe, dignified and equitable access for people of all ages and abilities, and specifically wheelchair users
 - link the entry to a park with either a footpath or car park or both
 - lead to gates (where sites are fenced) and external access points
 - continue within a fenced area to amenities such as accessible furniture and play elements
 - be designed to facilitate participation in social interaction and play activities.

10.

Review the standard furniture suite for parks and play spaces

- Place one or more tables /picnic setting with in each play space.
- Place one picnic setting centrally where it allows easy supervision of the play space and also encourages social interaction between different users. This must be wheelchair accessible with path access. Ideally also provide multiple tables in larger spaces.
- Include different seating options- including bench seats, single seats with back and arm rests, curved seats, all within the one design family.
- Position seats and table to access summer shade and winter sun.
- Seek to develop a suite of BBQs, Drink fountains, shelters, shade, and bins that suit the requirements of functionality, durability, wheelchair accessibility, value for money and visual appeal, and apply these to all new installations in the future.
- Continue to replace the older style furniture with its maroon-coloured cast iron frame and 'heritage' design. Preferably replace with an accessible timber table and seats, with path access.



GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

UPGRADE KEY DESIGN FEATURES

11.

Review the standard furniture suite for parks and play spaces

- Some slight modifications could be made to this standard suite, in consultation with the supplier, to make these more accessible.
- Determine whether the colour of steelwork on the seats and tables can be changed, ideally to dark grey (as per recommendations on fences in this section); seek heritage advice if required.
- Add less accessible furniture options if desired only once these basic requirements above are met.
- Install BBQs in district parks and ensure there is a regular cleaning and maintenance program.
- Ensure drink fountains are of an accessible design, located in an accessible position on a path and with drainage overflow managed.
- If shade sails are used, plant trees on the east and west sides of the sails to provide projected shade in summer mornings and afternoons. Sails can otherwise be ineffective at these times of day.
- Utilise shelters as a durable way of providing shade and all-weather protection. Consider a simple contemporary modular system which provides a good value option for parks and include roof drainage.

12.

Improve park signage across the Shire

- Consolidate all the existing signs that are placed in parks to avoid clutter.
- When developing new park signs ensure they:
 - Provide a consistent Shire and site identity
 - Identify entry points
 - Provide orientation, directions and information regarding amenities and activity prompts etc.
 - Provide historic information, and
 - Set rules, expectations and control behaviour.
- New signs should be:
 - Consistent with Council branding and with heritage requirements
 - Contemporary and attractive
 - Graphically consistent across all parks and play spaces
 - Legible to people with a vision impairment and other disabilities
 - Concise, clear and unambiguous.



GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

UPGRADE KEY DESIGN FEATURES

13.

Provide a select number of fenced play sites that are well designed and promoted

- Provide a selection of fenced play spaces distributed across the Shire for reasonably equitable access.
- Progressively upgrade these fences according to the Volume 3 Play Space Assessments.
- Accommodate easy access by people with disabilities into a fenced site and connect paths with gates.
- Select some contemporary fencing products and materials that lift the appearance of parks, meet heritage requirements, and fulfil the function/purpose of the fence, at reasonable cost.
- Review the colour scheme of its steel park 'heritage' fences and whether black or dark grey could replace the current maroon colour, in order to reduce the visual prominence and fading.
- Discontinue the use of cables, wires and chains in fencing, immediately, and replace these due to the serious hazard they present for people with a vision impairment.
- Progressively phase out treated pine barriers and bollards and replace with a more attractive and functional design, with gaps / gates for wheelchair access where required.
- Consolidate fence types into a limited number and adopt the selected suite as a standard product to use across the Shire to aid in maintenance and replacement of parts as well a consistent appearance.
- Promote the play sites with fences to residents as many will depend on these.
- Check fences and gates when equipment is checked as these are easily damaged and may restrict access or cause injury.

14.

Include more swings in play spaces

- Offer more swinging opportunities in play spaces, as they are high in value and relatively low cost.
- Provide, where possible, a minimum of two double swing frames in all local parks, and more in District and Regional parks. One should be junior, and one should be senior or a birds-nest design.
- Provide two seats usable by toddlers in junior frames, and two in senior frames. At least one seat should have a lightweight full back support with a seatbelt style harness and an accessible surface.
- Provide a wide variety of other seat types including the rope 'Viking' type swing and the 'you and me' / 'joey' seat types, and swivel swings where more swings can be added within one site, or where there are other parks close by in the same catchment.
- Carefully position swings to avoid children and passers-by being struck while passing; especially avoid placing swings between social spaces and other play elements, where children are highly likely to cross.



GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

UPGRADE KEY DESIGN FEATURES

15.

Select a variety of equipment styles

- Introduce variety in styles where one type of equipment is used repeatedly, within any one park, and across parks in the locality. For example, choose a variety of swings as above. For slides include tube slides, spiral slides, wave/bumpy slides, double slides, banister slides, mound slides, in many different materials and offering varying degrees of challenge.

16.

Focus more on pretend play / role play in play spaces

- Introduce more pretend play items in play spaces. (The cubby in Domain Reserve, fire trucks in Coronation Reserve and Market Reserve in Carisbrook are the only ones available).
- Introduce different options for pretend play, ranging from highly natural vegetated nooks with a tree stump, to formal cubbies, vehicles, boats etc.
- Install these so they can be accessed from a wheelchair – even if this is to only one section of a structure. (such as a trailer, attached to the fire engine).
- Place these items with other items that stimulate pretend play – especially near cubbies, shop counters, vegetation, nooks, logs, rocks, sand etc. to obtain the best value and enable children to connect these in their play.

17.

Introduce more low-key landscape / natural elements for play

- Enable children's games to connect play on equipment with the landscape around the equipment.
- Provide options for balancing along edges, stepping stones, narrow paths, small sculptures, rocks and boulders, logs, tree stumps, leaves, flowers and pods, groups of trees, tree 'tunnels' loose sand and dirt, pebbles and water for play.
- Deliberately place these elements in relation to suitable equipment to provide additional low-cost play value.
- Consider access and inclusion in their placement.

18.

Enhance landscape amenity, play value, climate responsiveness of local parks through tree planting and vegetation

- Plant more trees in parks and play spaces, for shade, amenity and environmental appreciation.
- Demonstrate a commitment to trees and their importance to the community.
- Encourage, resource and support expertise in horticulture and tree selection and management within the parks team to deliver high quality play environments and climate responsive parks.



GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

UPGRADE KEY DESIGN FEATURES

19.

Enhance landscape amenity, play value, climate responsiveness of local parks through tree planting and vegetation

- Prepare a list of tree species for parks and play spaces that will thrive in different conditions across the Shire that are ideal for various purposes, such as, Specimen trees, Shade trees, Trees offering play value, Habitat trees, and Windbreak trees.
- Plan site upgrades well in advance, to enable areas within a park to be identified for tree planting earlier than other works, thereby allowing them to establish early.
- Ensure that in every site plan, trees and other vegetation are included as a major element of the design and that adequate space is allocated to enable them to thrive.
- Include more shrubs and ground covers in parks for play.
- Address the absence of shrubs, ground covers and flowering plants in most parks in Central Goldfields Shire.
- Acknowledge that vegetation other than trees, can make a significant contribution to user experiences in parks as well as attract and support wildlife.
- Recognise the opportunities such planting presents and prepare plant lists from which to select suitable species for inclusion in parks for play.

20.

Maximise the value from hard courts

- Where possible provide courts as full-sized courts to maximise the number of users and activities, and to minimise conflicts and hazards associated with their placement.
- If both netball and basketball are provided on the same court, it should be a full court.
- Ensure there is sufficient surrounding runoff space and that balls are contained when a hard court is provided.
- Link the hard court to a sealed path system, which allows them to be used for wheel toys and skates.
- Place hard courts away from loose surfaces and over hanging trees, as debris and stones on courts causes accidents.

For the specific recommendations for each site, refer to Volume 3 Play Space Assessments



RECOMMENDATIONS BY RESERVE

OUTLINE

The section identifies all the play spaces in the Shire and includes a very high-level summary table of what was recommended in Volume 3 for each play space.

The Recommendations by Reserve table then lists:

- the action that is required for each site
- the indicative cost of works required, broken down by budget type - (operations or capital)

Cost estimates

The cost estimates provided in the action plan are indicative estimates and are not based on actual costed designs. The figures are based on the cost of recent projects observed in a range of parks for play developed around 2023 in Melbourne and other regional centres.

As each tranche of projects commences the planning process, these indicative costs will need to be updated and refined.

Interpreting the Recommendations

The recommendations overleaf are categorised into four actions-types in accordance with Council's asset management principles and budget planning processes.

Each has been divided between operational tasks and capital works and all subsequent recommendations are subject to funding being available via Council's budget process.

The descriptions of indicative works are explained in more detail for each site in the Volume 3 Play Space Assessments.

FUNDING SOURCE	ACTION TYPE	DEFINITION
OPERATING BUDGET	Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual maintenance and upkeep • Small tasks such as planting, surfaces, paths, minor repositioning of elements, improvements for access. No major new items. Includes high frequency tasks like replenishing soft fall surfaces.
	Renewal	Replacement of an existing play space on a like-for-like basis. Existing items may remain but new items added to replace equipment that has reached the end of its useful life.
CAPITAL BUDGET	Upgrade	An existing play space where the facility no longer meets the needs of the community or need to be upgraded to comply with current standards. May be in response to a park master plan and works may be delivered in stages. Some items can be retained or repositioned.
	New works	A new project; no existing play space on this site.

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY RESERVE**

Note: The recommendations contained in this table are for consideration as part of Council's integrated asset planning.

Delivery of these projects is subject to funding being available in future Council budgets.

The scope of works outlined in this strategy is indicative only and will be finalised at the time of delivery having regards to the outcomes of consultation required by Council's Community Engagement Policy.

No.	Site / Play Space	Address	Locality	Hierarchy	Action	Managed by	Indicative Cost
1	Cyril and Myra Martin Reserve	25 Whirrakee Drive	Maryborough	Local	Upgrade	CGSC	\$100k
7	PROPOSED: Maryborough Leisure Centre / John Pascoe Reserve-	40 Gillies Street	Maryborough	Regional	New works	CGSC	\$1.2 mil
9	Apex Park Playground/Bristol Hill	77 Kars Street	Maryborough	Local	Upgrade	CGSC	\$500k
6	Fraser St Playground / Gillies St	25 Fraser Street	Maryborough	Local	Upgrade	CGSC	\$400k
1A	Coronation Park Play-ground/ Lyons Wayside Park	48 Park Road	Maryborough	District	Renewal	CGSC	\$400k
12	Bowenvale Recreation Reserve	530 Timor Road/ Cousin Jack Rd	Bowenvale	Local	Renewal 2024/25	CGSC	

For the specific recommendations for each site, refer to Volume 3 Play Space Assessments.

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY RESERVE**

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Delivery of these projects is subject to funding being available in future Council budgets.

The scope of works outlined in this strategy is indicative only and will be finalised at the time of delivery having regards to the outcomes of consultation required by Council's Community Engagement Policy.

No.	Site / Play Space	Address	Locality	Hierarchy	Action	Managed by	Indicative Budget
13	Dunolly Public Rec. Res. Gordon Gardens	Bull Street and 27 Market St	Dunolly	District	Upgrade	CGSC	\$750k
19	Majorca Hall/ Play-ground	332 Talbot Rd	Majorca	District	Renewal	CGSC	\$100k
4	Roscholler Park East Maryborough N'hood Centre	(Cnr Spring Street and (12) Primrose St)	Maryborough	Local	Renewal	CGSC	\$100k
2	Princes Park East Playground	Lake Rd / 97 Burns St	Maryborough	District	Renewal	CGSC	\$500k
14	Orme Snowden Park	14 Davies St	Bealiba	District	Renewal	CGSC	\$100k
8	Rowland Park / Napier St Play-ground	15 Derby Rd (Cnr Clarke / Napier St)	Maryborough	Local	Renewal	CGSC	\$200k
10	Herring Reserve / Pekin Rd Play-ground	42 Pekin Rd (Cnr Douglass St)	Maryborough	Local	Renewal	CGSC	\$100k

For the specific recommendations for each site, refer to Volume 3 Play Space Assessments.



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY RESERVE

Note: The recommendations contained in this table are for consideration as part of Council's integrated asset planning.

Delivery of these projects is subject to funding being available in future Council budgets.

The scope of works outlined in this strategy is indicative only and will be finalised at the time of delivery having regards to the outcomes of consultation required by Council's Community Engagement Policy.

No.	Site / Play Space	Address	Locality	Hierarchy	Action	Managed by	Indicative Budget
20	Talbot Pioneers Reserve	36 Scandina- via Cres.	Talbot	District	Upgrade	CGSC	\$500k
17	Bucknall Reserve Playground/ Bland Reserve	MaCallum Street/ 50 Green St	Carisbrook	Local	Consult re future of play space	CGSC	TBC
16	Carisbrook Park/ Market Reserve Playground	24 Powlett St. (Green/ Burch/ Urquhart Sts)	Carisbrook	District	Renewal	CGSC	\$75k
21	Daisy Hill Commu- nity Centre Play- ground	11 Dehnerts Rd	Daisy Hill	District	Renewal	CGSC	\$75k
11	Station Domain Playground	48 Burns Street, (Cnr Nolan, Station Sts)	Maryborough	Local	Renewal	CGSC	\$50k

For the specific recommendations for each site, refer to Volume 3 Play Space Assessments.



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY RESERVE

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The scope of works outlined in this strategy is indicative only and will be finalised at the time of delivery having regards to the outcomes of consultation required by Council's Community Engagement Policy.

No.	Site/Play Space	Address	Locality	Hierarchy	Action	Managed by CGSC?	Indicative Budget
22	Goldfields Reservoir Playground	89 Derby Rd, (off Ballarat Rd.)	Maryborough	District	Renewal	Uncertain	\$50k
15	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	6 Hare St	Carisbrook	Local	Upgrade	CGSC	\$350k
3	Maryborough Caravan Park Playground	7 Holyrood St	Maryborough	Local	Renewal	CGSC	\$50k

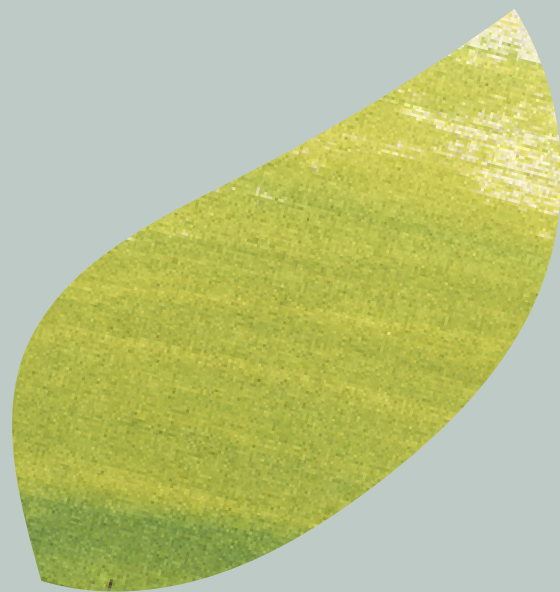
For the specific recommendations for each site, refer to Volume 3 Play Space Assessments.



Design Guidelines and Best Practice in Play Spaces

This section:

- introduces the importance of play, and the benefits of play spaces to children and to the community,
- provides Guidelines of 10 key design characteristics and key features that provide added value for play, even where standard play equipment is used.





THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY & THE BENEFITS OF PLAY SPACES

Play is essential for developing social, emotional, cognitive and physical skills necessary for children to grow into happy, healthy and resilient adults.

Play is also vital for children's sensory integration and development. Sensory health is foundational to learning and is vital for human well being.

Apart from the five well-known external senses:

- touch,
- taste,
- smell,
- hearing, and
- vision
- children need to develop their internal senses:
- body awareness (proprioception),
- movement systems (vestibular senses) and
- internal monitoring of the entire body- (interoceptive senses).

Play spaces are exceptionally well placed to provide all of these benefits.

Activities such as swinging, rocking, spinning, bouncing, sliding, jumping, hanging upside down, balancing; plus activities that use the large muscle groups for climbing, digging, pushing and pulling, all contribute to the development of the internal senses.

Play spaces can also be designed to enhance the external sensory experiences through textures (in plant materials, sand and dirt, building materials, surfaces and art works); through smell and taste (plant materials); through colour shape and form) and through sound, both natural and man-made.

The following guidelines are a brief summary of these and other aspects of play space design.

Many children, especially in urban areas, have limited space at home to play and are increasingly dependent on public designated spaces for their play needs

Council provides play spaces because they offer multiple benefits; to the individual, to families and to the broader community.





DESIGN GUIDELINES & BEST PRACTICE IN PLAY SPACES

Ten design characteristics for delivering better play spaces

The following pages provide an overview of 10 key design characteristics that play spaces need to address.

The design guide describes some key features that provide added value for play, even where standard play equipment is used.

1. PLAY VALUE
2. SOCIAL INCLUSION
3. NATURE, ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY
4. OPEN ENDED PLAY
5. DESIGN FOR IMAGINATIVE /CREATIVE PLAY
6. CLIMBING AND RISK TAKING
7. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
8. FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY
9. A LANDMARK OR SIGNATURE FEATURE
10. INTER-RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ELEMENTS

These guidelines should form part of any future design brief for play space upgrades or replacements.





DESIGN GUIDELINES

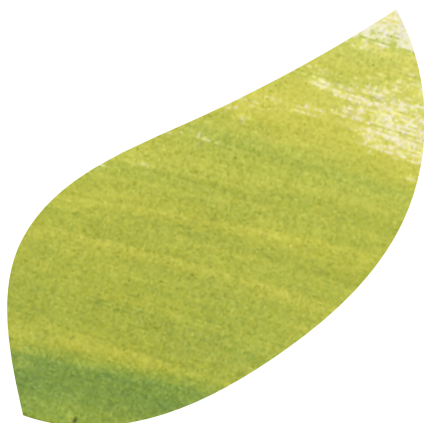
GUIDELINE 1. PLAY VALUE

Because a park and play space represents a long-term capital investment for Council and is an important resource for the community and for the environment, it is vital that all planning, design and management processes deliver the best possible value over a long time.

Value is not only represented in the assets and their monetary value (even though these are considerable). It is also the benefit to children (and society) from all the developmental opportunities that quality play experiences deliver.

The community benefits from having ecologically stable, healthy environments in parks, from the opportunities to meet one another in highly amenable outdoor settings, and from opportunities to build social relationships.

There are many and varied ways of achieving these goals on the ground. Because it is unlikely that any one small park will achieve all of the points described overleaf, it is emphasised that the system of parks across a precinct or whole municipality has to be considered, and each park design needs to consider and complement what is provided nearby.



Although play value itself is subjective and difficult to quantify, the highest play value is obtained where:

- a park or play space provides all user/s with some basic opportunities for immediate play, in the forms of social /physical /imaginative/cognitive/creative play,
- where there are also opportunities for children to explore further and adapt some elements in the space for their own purposes,
- where children can combine any of the types of play activities (social /physical /imaginative/cognitive/creative play) in different ways to suit themselves over time, for repeat visits. This relates to the placement of items such as equipment, planting etc to one another.



DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 2. ACCESS & SOCIAL INCLUSION

Successful spaces welcome residents and visitors of all ages and abilities to meet and interact in a space that is accessible, appealing and welcoming.

How this is done will depend upon the nature of the park and the budget. It may for example include:

- physical accessibility and good wayfinding to include people with low vision and people using mobility device,
- accessible picnic tables positioned centrally,
- well-located seats connected by a path and shaded by a tree,
- one or more picnic shelters with furniture and barbecues,
- selective fencing of sites to address hazards and minimise danger to neurodiverse children who may abscond (see later in this section), and
- a choice of opportunities to include people of all gender identities, people of all cultures and age groups.

Key features:

- Furniture must be of an accessible design and located so that people with mobility aids/wheelchairs can be part of the social space.
- Seating needs to be positioned to provide a choice of both sun and shade.
- Seating to be located where adults can interact with each other and with playing children.
- Seating and furniture to be located on a seamless accessible path system.
- The space should include opportunities for older people, and should facilitate intergenerational interaction.

Consider the following elements:

- Seamless path system
- Accessible seating
- Shelter or shade protection from wind
- Location and configuration of seating that encourages visitors to interact with each other and supervise children
- 'Doughnut' idea – a central location for the social space surrounded by the play activities
- Selective fencing of sites.



Seamless path system to accessible play space



DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 2 CONT. FENCING



Facilities accessible by all users

Special site features encourage
social interaction

Fencing may be required around parks for play or play spaces to:

- Separate users from a hazard, such as a road, railway, or water body; especially if the space is very small.
- Assist families with a member who has a disability. (i.e., neuro diverse people who may be constantly distracted or experience sensory overloads); assist parents with limited mobility, or who have multiple young children.
- Restrict vehicle access
- Provide a clear boundary to a public space
- Contribute a streetscape, local identity or historic character
- Meet regulatory requirements for early childhood centres, or ponds (these have their own requirements).

Note that:

Fences are only as good as their gate, and failed locks and gates are expensive to maintain.

Fencing can create inadvertent barriers for people using mobility devices, double prams and those that cannot unlatch gates on their own.

It is desirable to use the Council website to promote fenced play spaces as many families depend on these.

Positioning of fences

Fences should not be used to 'cage in' play equipment, as it will restrict play from spilling out into the surrounding park. It is preferable to fence whole or substantial parts of parks. Where this is not feasible, fences need to be positioned carefully to suit the setting, to avoid visual intrusion, and to include seats/tables trees, and open grassed areas for other play within the fenced area.

The positioning of fences and gates needs to accommodate easy access by people with disabilities, so the connections of paths with gates and then the facility within the fence has to be a primary consideration.



DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 2 CONT. FENCING

Design of fencing

It is reasonable that there a range of fence types will be required, and these have widely varying cost implications.

1800mm high fences in District or Regional play spaces can support the visits of families with children with a range of disabilities and/or larger numbers of children. These may also need to be of a heritage design in some places.

Select some contemporary products and materials that lift the appearance of parks, meet any heritage requirements, and fulfil the function/purpose of the fence, at reasonable cost.

Fences can be made less visually intrusive through choosing a colour such as slate grey or black alternatively a fence/ barrier can be designed to incorporate artistic elements to make a feature of the fence.

Where latches may be problematic consider box gates to slow down children exiting the site.

Fences comprising simple cables, wires and chains can cause serious hazards for people who may not be able to see them.

Treated pine barriers and bollards should be progressively phased out and replaced with a more attractive and functional design, with gaps /gates for wheelchair access where required.

Fences with horizontal wires or rails should also be discontinued as rails are easily climbed, and wires/cables are easily damaged.

Fences and gates need to be checked when equipment is checked as these are easily damaged and may restrict access or cause injury.

'Soft' barriers

Depending upon the site, it may sometimes be appropriate to provide more low key barriers comprising hedges or other planting along part of the perimeter. These can slow down an absconding child, but some families will need more complete barriers to meet their needs.



Station Domain Playground in Maryborough has successfully enclosed the whole play space within the fence line and included planting, play equipment, paths and social amenities.



DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 3. NATURE PLAY, ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY AND AMENITY

Why nature?

There are numerous reasons why nature is important to children.

The future of the planet

An important over-arching reason is that future generations need to be familiar with, curious and passionate about natural systems in order to protect the environment.

As more than 50% of the world's population now lives in cities, this will become increasingly challenging to provide meaningful connections with nature for the world's population.

The community still values this connection but needs to protect it for the future.

Parks are part of an ecological system and have an impact on habitat, ground water, air quality and other environmental factors.



Ever changing intrigue

Natural environments and materials change constantly, as they grow, change with seasons, develop with age, and attract interesting live creatures such as birds, mammals, reptiles and small invertebrates. Children find intrigue in observing the minutiae of nature close-up as well as enjoying the grandeur of large trees and natural systems such as creeks, forests and wetlands.

Variety

Because natural and living things are not manufactured, they offer far more variety and complexity than most purpose-built play structures. These require a child to think about how they will handle the challenge of climbing a tree, for example, and allow children to develop their judgement and skills as they do so.



Loose materials for nature play

The quality described as "Open ended-ness" is discussed further in Item 4 in this section. Natural materials are ultimately open-ended as children are free to gather and use them in their imaginative games in whichever way, they see fit.

Flowers, leaves, gumnuts, sand, soil, pebbles, twigs, branches and logs are just some of the natural materials that children frequently use in their imaginative and creative play. These materials are frequently used alongside and inside more traditional play structures and enhance the play there.

This demonstrates the importance of placing natural elements close to other settings for play. See following images.





DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 3. NATURE PLAY, ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY AND AMENITY

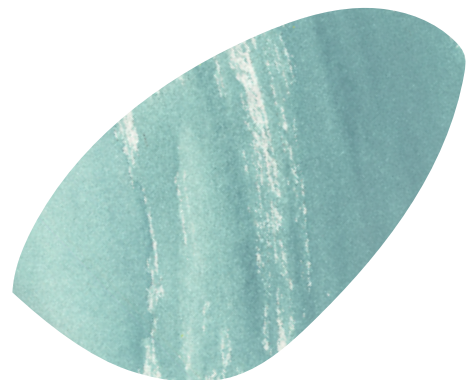


Special Interest

Natural elements sometimes define some very beautiful and appealing spaces which children as well as adults enjoy.



Other Natural Elements





DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 4. OPEN ENDED PLAY AND IMAGINATIVE CREATIVE PLAY

Typically, most parks provide for play via a designated play space that is likely to include some play equipment within a bordered area of mulch. The same park sometimes also offer less defined, natural, or vegetated spaces, areas of grass, a hard surfaced path or court, and other man-made or natural elements.

One of the purposes of this strategy report is to encourage the blurring of the boundary between these distinct zones, as the less defined (open-ended) areas often offer children experiences that they value, when they are ready to explore further, and that are not found in the mulched equipment zones.

Providing opportunities to explore and discover beyond the border of the mulch may require a staged process in a small park:

Step one requires the availability (or creation) of interesting bush, planting, creeks, terrain or other elements in the park that interest children (and also may simultaneously provide valuable habitat, bio-diversity etc.). See also the previous Item.

Step two is to create a relationship between this resource and the play space (Item 10 below explains the importance of this).

Step three may require the inclusion of an 'invitation' to explore further-- for example by providing an inviting bridge or pathway out of the designated play space, some stepping stones or some sculptured forms or



The edges of a space can bring additional interest to the play.



Blurred boundaries between play equipment and natural areas encourages more interaction between the two zones



DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 4. OPEN ENDED PLAY AND IMAGINATIVE CREATIVE PLAY

Design for imaginative /creative play

Some features in most play spaces will typically need to be purpose-built for particular types of play (such as swings).

However, at least some elements in the space should be adaptable for different uses, or have no particular purpose, in order to provide for children's own imaginative / creative play.

This characteristic is described as "open ended" and provides scope for children to invent games of their own. This kind of self-directed play, appropriating elements in the physical environment for a variety of purposes limited only by the child's imagination, is fundamentally important to children.

Typically, this kind of play incorporates imaginative games, usually some kind of role play or fantasy, may utilise loose materials found on site (sand, leaves, flowers etc.), and uses the physical environment as a prop (small corners, changes of level, climbing, hiding spots etc.) depending on the ages of the children. Research has shown that this kind of play rarely relates to an adult devised theme set by the play space designer (such as a boat or train or other idea) and comes from the children themselves.

This is the exact equivalent of the child finding the box more interesting rather than the present at Christmas time, precisely because the child (rather than an adult or manufacturer) can determine how to play with it. In parks this is a difficult issue to explain as well as to successfully implement. We therefore recommend a compromise, a core of purpose-built elements which do provide what adults freely recognize as provision for play, but coupled with other design features which satisfy the possibilities for open-ended play sought by children.

All of the natural elements described in Item No. 2 discussed previously contribute to this open-ended play, as do spaces that:

- are flexible, adaptable and multi-purpose (refer to Item No 7)
- those with some complexity (No 8)
- and where the relationships between spaces (No 10) benefit this type of play.

Examples of some design features that allow children some scope to interpret their play are included below.



Some features have no distinct purpose and so can serve any purpose imagined by children.





DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 5. CLIMBING & RISK TAKING

Climbing to develop life skills

There is no doubt that children need to be able to test, develop and extend their abilities as they grow older.

The ability for children to climb and test themselves physically is linked to the development of self-confidence and autonomy, as balance, co-ordination and strength develops along with children's sense of judgment, decision making and persistence.

Children learn to manage risk by experimenting, finding out their limitations, failing and trying again.

The importance of risk taking

Risk is an inherent part of life and attempts to eliminate all forms of risk-taking behaviour are unrealistic and counter-productive, resulting in children unable to recognize or deal with serious dangers when they do arise.

Risk taking is important in developing critical thinking, decision making and judgment, and in achieving a sense of mastery and skill-development.

It is preferable that children have opportunities to learn to take graduated risk in settings where the price of failure is not life threatening or serious injury.

What kinds of challenge?

Opportunities for children to climb and extend their skills progressively in public play spaces therefore make a vitally important contribution to this skill development in our children.

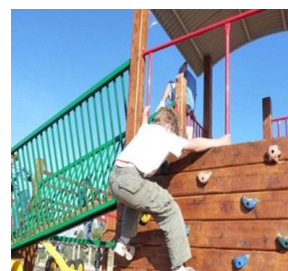
This can be done with purpose-built climbing structures as well as in trees and in other incidental settings such as boulders, walls and edges. When these are provided as part of a playground, Australian Standards for playgrounds guide the design in order to reduce the risk of injury.

When climbing opportunities present themselves outside designated play areas, these should be recognised for their value, and the benefits as well as any risks need to be weighed up (if any assessment is required).

Design for challenge

Play spaces need to:

- Offer children the chance to acquire skills at their own pace
- Allow children to opt in or out by choice.
- Provide some children support in learning to climb.
- Provide some climbing opportunities that are not purpose designed (such as trees) and therefore allow children to test their skills and judgment, within the relative safety of a park.
- Provide choice of degrees of challenge or children will seek it elsewhere.





DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 5. CLIMBING & RISK TAKING

Consider the ergonomics of structures that are purpose built for climbing



Aim to make climbing sociable, going somewhere; connected.



Aim to also provide some climbing opportunities that are not purpose designed (such as trees) and therefore allow children to test their skills and judgment, within the relative safety of a park.





DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 6. VARIED FORMS OF MOVEMENTS

Movement plays a key role as children grow and develop, aiding their:

- Progression from primitive reflexes to high levels of control and fine motor skills
- Development and integration of the senses
- Balance and co-ordination
- Hand-eye co-ordination
- Perception of the body in space
- Ability to perceive distance
- Perceptions of weight, gravity and speed
- Understanding of cause and effect, as well as the ability to manage the risks discussed on the previous page.

From birth, babies work on balance and hearing and connecting these to vision, through movement and play. All the senses thus learn to work together.

In addition to the five 'external' senses, three internal ('hidden') senses play a huge role in children's development:

- Vestibular sense (head position)
- Kinesthetic or body movement sense (feedback about changes made in body position)
- Proprioceptive sense (held together by a sense of feeling where the body is in space).

Movements such as spinning, swinging, rocking, balancing, sliding, hanging upside down, bike riding, jumping and rolling all contribute to this vital development.

Play equipment is excellent at providing for these forms of movement and there is a huge variety of products from which to choose.

When selecting equipment that caters for movement, consider the over-arching principles that have already been mentioned in this document, such as:

- Diversity. Make sure that any equipment selected for one park offers a different choice or style of play from other nearby parks.
- Inclusive and accessible – make sure that within every precinct child with a disability and of different ages can find some moving equipment that suits their needs (e.g., children with a physical disability, toddlers, teenagers etc.). There are more items on the market now that offer good back support as well as wheelchair access such as carousels, rockers and mini trampolines (bouncing facilities).
- Adaptable/multi-purpose (refer overleaf.) Sociable (e.g. swinging or sliding together).





DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 6. VARIED FORMS OF MOVEMENTS





DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 7. FLEXIBILITY, ADAPTABILITY, & MULTI-PURPOSE ACTIVITIES

Parks, play spaces and equipment that provide a diversity of flexible and adaptable activities deliver better value to the community than items which only have a narrow purpose or a narrow group who can use them. For example, consider items that can be used by:

- children either in a group, or by themselves,
- younger children, teens and adults,
- able and less able children, and
- children in a variety of ways.

This does not mean that across multiple spaces or a locality or catchment, we cannot provide items that are quite specialised. It does mean that thought should be given to who might be physically able to use any of the play items selected for a play space, and if some groups are unlikely to be able to use it, (for reasons of age, ability, physical size etc.) consider where they can find a similar experience within the precinct.

This forces some consideration of diversity as well as social inclusion between spaces and between parks. Where budgets are limited, it is preferable to select play items on the basis of whether many different people can use them, and in how many different ways.

Play elements that are open-ended, as discussed previously will by definition be adaptable and provide for a variety of ways in which children can utilise them for their own purposes.

Choose items which can be used by as many different ages, sizes and abilities of users as possible.

Programmable spaces are adaptable to the needs of the group. Photo courtesy Darebin City Council Youth Dept.





DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 7. FLEXIBILITY, ADAPTABILITY, & MULTI-PURPOSE ACTIVITIES

Spatial complexity



When spaces within a park or play area vary in size, and when there is some visual complexity within a play space, children benefit from the potential for more complexity and variety in their play.





DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 7. FLEXIBILITY, ADAPTABILITY, & MULTI-PURPOSE ACTIVITIES



Planting and changes of level contribute to visual and spatial interest and complexity.

Space itself suggests and encourages some types of behaviour to children:

Long narrow spaces (such as at an airport terminal) seem to suggest running.

When you can't see all of a space it encourages you to explore, play chasey or play hide and seek games.

Routes up and down, over and through, and complex levels that offer opportunities to run and climb through three-dimensional space provide benefits for play that are not available in flat spaces with a simple array of open decks and thin posts.

Where solid walls, plants, hedges, fences, or other built features define smaller spaces, children adapt these 'rooms' for imaginative/role play in smaller groups.

Changes in levels within a park or play space provide opportunities to look down, roll down, jump down, balance along and enjoy in any number of ways that children will devise for themselves.

Quite small, seemingly insignificant sub-spaces within a park can have value to children. The divisions that separate and define individual spaces might be quite subtle.

Frequently children need to construct their own small cubbies and dens to enclose themselves and provide the right scaled spaces for their play. In parks where there are loose thin branches and leaves available, these might be used for this purpose. This kind of play is very important to children and there are fewer and fewer places where it can take place.

Some games require smaller spaces and simply would not occur in flat, open, exposed terrain.

This topic is closely related to the issues raised in the discussion on natural elements and loose materials (Item No 2) and open-ended design features (Item No. 4).





DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 8. A LANDMARK OR SIGNATURE FEATURE

Many parks are memorable to children and families because there is something special that gives a unique local identity to the park or play space. Children might give the park a local name like “egg park”, “rocket park”, or “train park”. Such “signature” items, no matter how small, are also a good landmark for parents. This is important because parks dominated by natural elements may not always ‘read’ as a play space at first, and parents may not think to take their children there.

Inherent magical qualities

Some places have features that immediately attract children to play because of some inherent qualities (affordances) that demand children’s attention.

Examples may include a unique tree or iconic structure, a special landform, a hiding space, or some other special feature. Items that are special to children might not be those that are obvious to adults.

Every park should have something special that gives it a character and identity. This does not need to be very large or expensive. It may be a natural feature such as a natural outcrop of rock or a special tree. If a park has such a feature, it should be retained and protected. Children will sometimes have particular activities that they only play in that place. Some examples are shown following.

Inter relationships between elements

The physical location of elements in a park, and their relationships to one another, are critically important in how and whether a park or the play space is used or used to its maximum potential.

There are two broad aims as described below.

- Avoid conflicts:
- Separate busy active zones from sedentary play
- Separate noisy from quiet
- Separate vulnerable children from boisterous more risky activity areas
- Some items need to be located where vulnerable children don’t cross their path.



Maximise the benefit from locating two zones next to one another

Open grass or paved ball game area near a play and picnic space provides convenience and supervision for parents as well as activities that can flow easily between the two zones for most age groups.



Co-location that stimulates games and play between more than one area. For example, the combination of a cubby space with a sand pit and some loose materials such as water, twigs or flowers that can all enhance the cubby play.



DESIGN GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE 7. FLEXIBILITY, ADAPTABILITY, & MULTI-PURPOSE ACTIVITIES

Co-location of play

Combine social interaction/ observing areas with an activity area such as for older children and teens. Older children love to watch each other and to interact socially, so linking social /seating spaces with an active area such as skating areas, ball courts or an exciting feature like a flying fox work well together.



Sand play needs to be protected from busy activities



Combined social and activity areas for older children/ teens



CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS
PLAY STRATEGY 2023

Appendices



Appendix 1. Inventory of play spaces in Central Goldfields

Play space no. From safety audit	Site/Play space name	Alternative Park Name	Street Address	Locality	Postcode	Land ownership	Management responsibility
14	Orme Snowden Park	-	14 Davies Street (Corner of Davies St and Cochrane St)	Bealiba	3475	Crown	CGSC
12	Timor Rd Playground/ Timor Tennis Playground	Bowenvale Public Recreation Reserve (526 Timor Rd)	530 Timor Road/ Cnr Cousin Jack Road	Bowenvale	3465	Crown	CGSC
15	Carisbrook Recreation Reserve	Carisbrook Tennis Courts Playground	6 Hare Street Carisbrook	Carisbrook	3464	Crown	CGSC
17	Bucknall Reserve Playground	Bland Reserve	MaCallum Street/ 50 Green Street	Carisbrook	3464	Crown	CGSC
16	Carisbrook Park/ Carisbrook Public Recreation Reserve and Depot	Market Reserve Playground/ Carisbrook Park	24 Powlett St. Bounded by Green, Burch and Urquat Streets	Carisbrook	3464	Crown	CGSC
21	Daisy Hill Community Centre Playground		11 Dehnerts Road,	Daisy Hill	3465	Crown	CGSC
13A	Deledio Recreation Reserve		20 Elgin St	Dunolly	3472	Crown	Committee
13	Dunolly Public Recreation Reserve (Tennis Club and Skate Park)	Gordon Gardens Recreation Reserve	Bull Street and 27 Market Street	Dunolly	3465	Crown / DEECA COM	CGSC



CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS
PLAY STRATEGY 2023

Appendix 1 cont. Inventory of play spaces in Central Goldfields

Play space no. From safety audit	Site/Play space name	Alternative Park Name	Street Address	Locality	Post-code	Land ownership	Management responsibility
19	Majorca Reserve Playground	Majorca Hall Playground	332 Talbot Road	Majorca	3465	Crown	CGSC
4	Roscholler Park Playground	East Maryborough Neighbourhood Centre Playground	65370.021(Cnr Spring Street and (12) Primrose Street)	Maryborough	3465	Crown	CGSC
8	Rowland Park Playground	Children's Playground (Napier Street)	15 Derby (Cnr Clarke Street and Napier Street)	Maryborough	3465	Crown	CGSC
1	Whirrakee Drive Playground / Whirrakee Park Playground	Quinn St Playground	25 Whirrakee Drive	Maryborough	3465	Crown	CGSC
10	Herring Reserve Playground	Pekin Road Playground	42 Pekin Road (Cnr Douglass Street and Pekin Road)	Maryborough	3465	Crown	CGSC
9	Apex Park Playground	Bristol Hill	77 Kars Street, Maryborough	Maryborough	3465	Crown	CGSC
6	Fraser St Playground		25 Fraser Street	Maryborough	3465	Crown	CGSC
11	Station Domain Playground		48 BURNS STREET. (Cnr Nolan Street and Burns Street/ Cnr Burns & Station Street)	Maryborough	3465	Crown	CGSC



Appendix 1 cont. Inventory of play spaces in Central Goldfields

Play space no. From safety audit	Site/Play space name	Alternative Park Name	Street Address	Locality	Postcode	Land ownership	Management responsibility
2	Princes Park East Playground	Princes Park Lake Victoria	Lake rd. off Burns Street, 97 Burns St	Maryborough	3465	Crown	CGSC
1a	Coronation Park Playground	Lyons Wayside Park	48 Park Road (in parcel named 36 PARK ROAD MARYBOROUGH 3465)	Maryborough	3465	Crown	CGSC
3	Maryborough Caravan Park Playground	Princes Park	7 Holyrood Street	Maryborough	3465	Crown	CGSC
20	Talbot Pioneers Reserve	Talbot Pioneer Park & Playground	36 Scandinavia Crescent, Talbot	Talbot	3371	Crown	CGSC
7	Maryborough Leisure Centre	John Pascoe Reserve, Maryborough/ Skate Park	40 GILLIES STREET MARYBOROUGH	Maryborough	3464	Crown	Unclear re skate park
22	Goldfields Reservoir Playground	Goldfields Reservoir Nature Playground	89 DERBY ROAD, Maryborough, (off Ballarat Rd)	Maryborough	3465	Crown	No



Appendix 1 cont. Inventory of play spaces in Central Goldfields

Play space no. From safety audit	Site/Play space name	Alternative Park Name	Street Address	Locality	Post-code	Land ownership	Management responsibility
2	Princes Park East Play-ground	Princes Park Lake Victoria	Lake rd. off Burns Street, 97 Burns St	Maryborough	3465	Crown	CGSC
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3	Maryborough Caravan Park Playground	Princes Park	7 Holyrood Street	Maryborough	3465	Crown	CGSC
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22	Goldfields Reservoir Play-ground	Goldfields Reservoir Nature Playground	89 DERBY ROAD, Maryborough, (off Ballarat Rd)	Maryborough	3465	Crown	No



Appendix 2. List of Schools

SCHOOLS IN CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)				
Play Equipment	Maryborough Education Centre	102-192 Balaclava Road	Maryborough	3465
Play Equipment	St. Augustine's Primary School	58-64 Burke Street	Maryborough	3465
Play Equipment	Hillview College	21 Kars St,	Maryborough	3465
Play Equipment	Dunolly Primary School	Tarnagulla Road	Dunolly	3465
Play Equipment	Carisbrook Primary School.	Camp Street, Carisbrook	Carisbrook	3464
Play Equipment	Bealiba Primary School	Grant Street, Bealiba	Bealiba	3475
Play Equipment	Timor Primary School	395 Bet Bet Creek Rd	Timor	3465



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

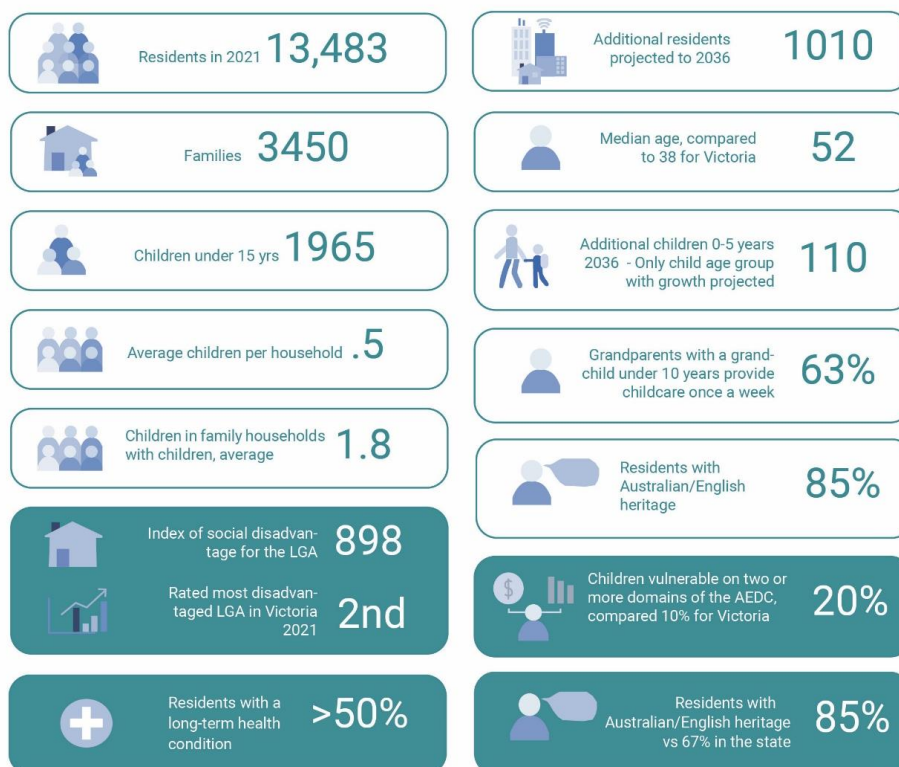


1 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

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

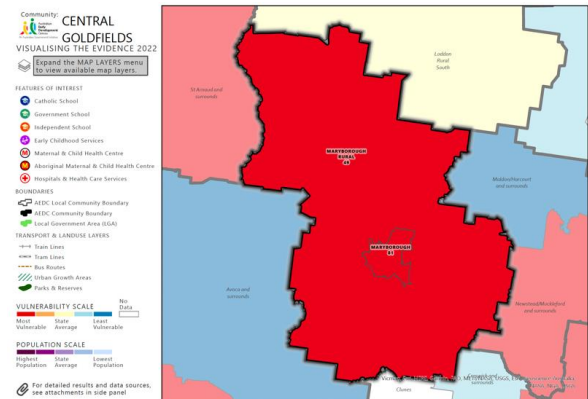
There is a high percentage of people needing assistance due to disability in Central Goldfields (10.4%), and especially in Maryborough (11.2%) compared to Victoria (5.9%). In addition, only 44% report no long-term health condition, as compared to Victoria as whole (61%).

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.

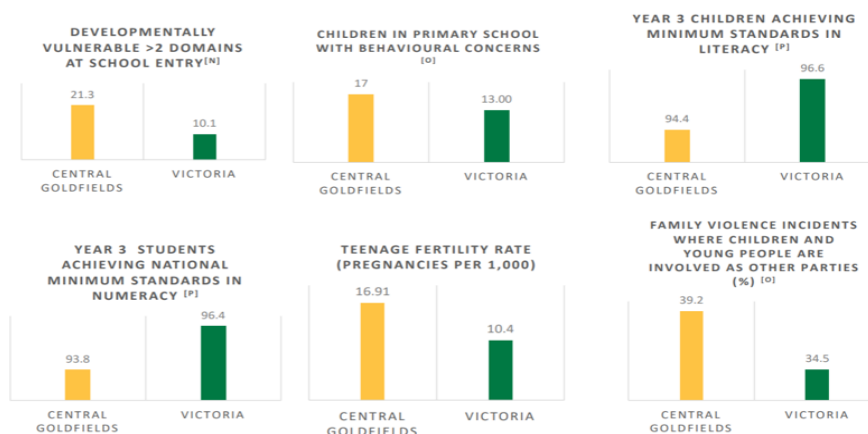
The Australian Early Development Census shows that children in Central Goldfields are "most vulnerable" (on the scale of most to least vulnerable), and 20% of children are considered vulnerable on two or more domains of the AEDC, compared to 10% for Victoria.

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.

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.

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

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



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.

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

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.



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./..



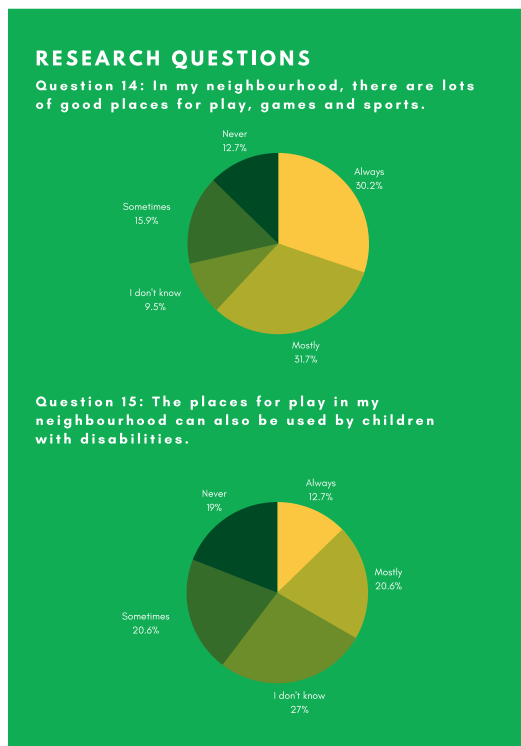
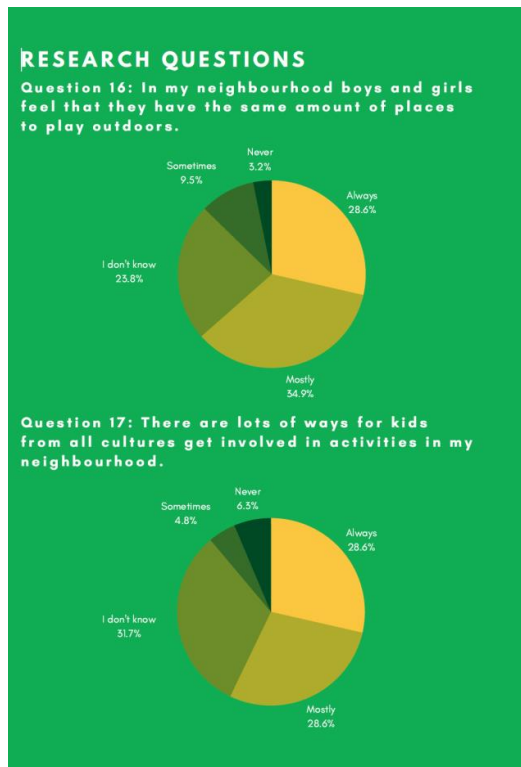
'If I was the Mayor...'

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.



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.

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 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 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%
Grand Total	356	100.0%



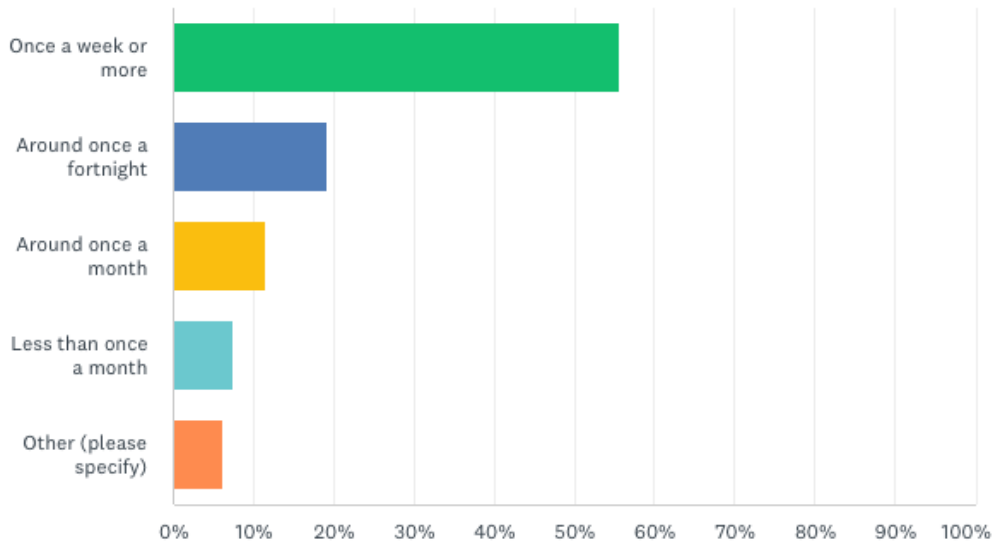
Main play space used, by age of children

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.

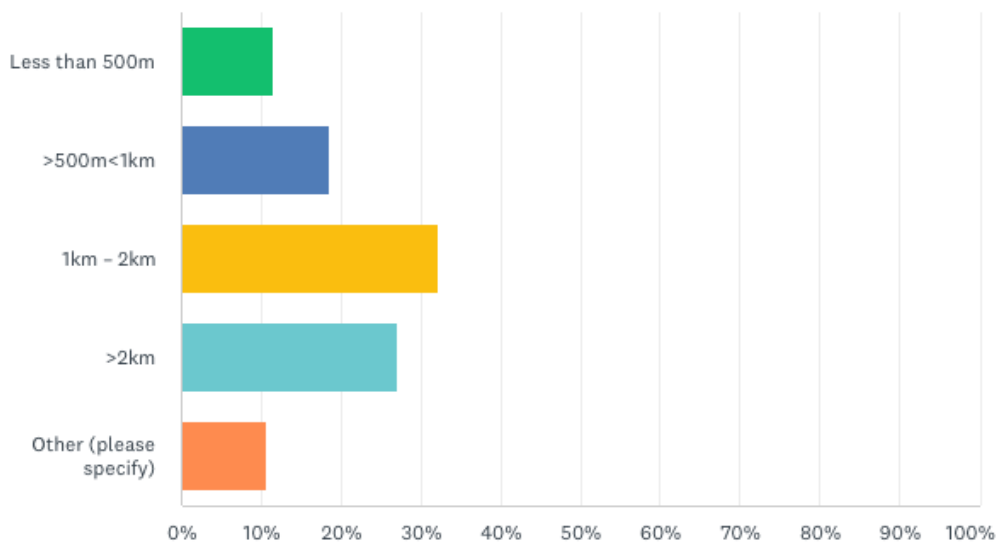
Location	Once a week or more	Around once a fortnight	Around once a month	Less than once a month	Other
Maryborough	59.6%	19.2%	9.6%	6.1%	5.6%
Carisbrook	71.0%	19.4%	0.0%	3.2%	6.5%
North	37.5%	0.0%	37.5%	0.0%	25.0%
Central	56.3%	31.3%	6.3%	6.3%	0.0%
South	54.2%	12.5%	25.0%	4.2%	4.2%
Other	6.3%	12.5%	31.3%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

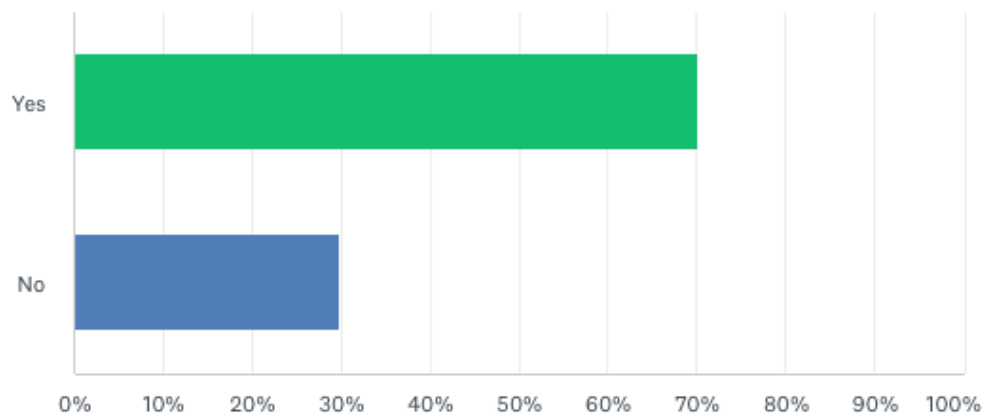


Summary: Types of improvements to main play space, cont.

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

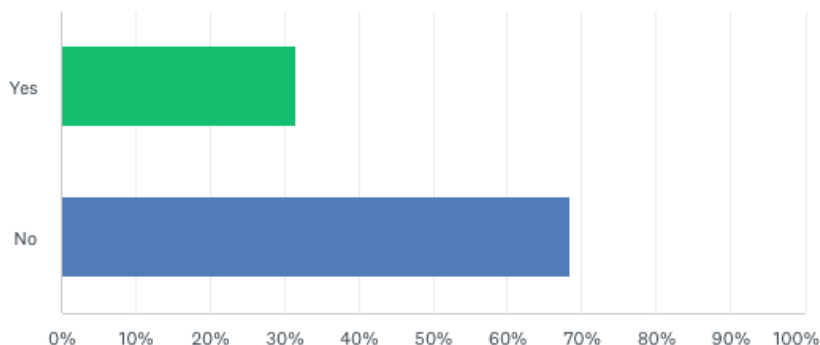
- a 'main play space', and as
- 'other play space used regularly'.

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.

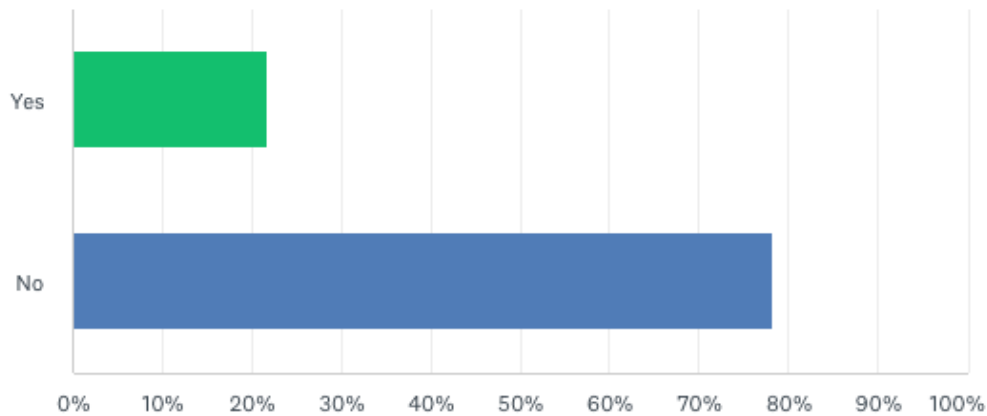


Question 9: Please select the closest play space to where you live.

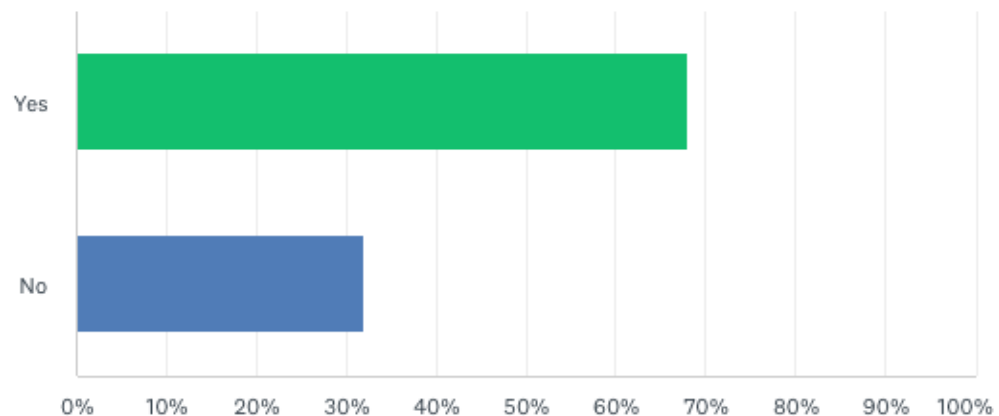
Play Space	Total	%
Station Domain Playground - Maryborough	38	17.5%
Princes Park East Playground - Maryborough	31	14.3%
Whirrakee Drive Playground - Maryborough	23	10.6%
Other (please specify)	20	9.2%
Carisbrook Park - Carisbrook	14	6.5%
Apex Park Playground - Maryborough	11	5.1%
Bucknall Reserve Playground - 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?**

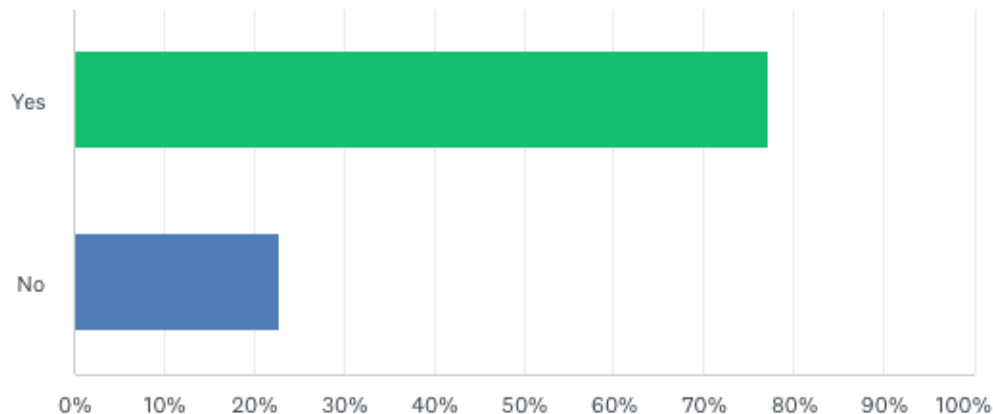
Almost 70% of those say that their closest play space is accessible to their family member with a disability.





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%



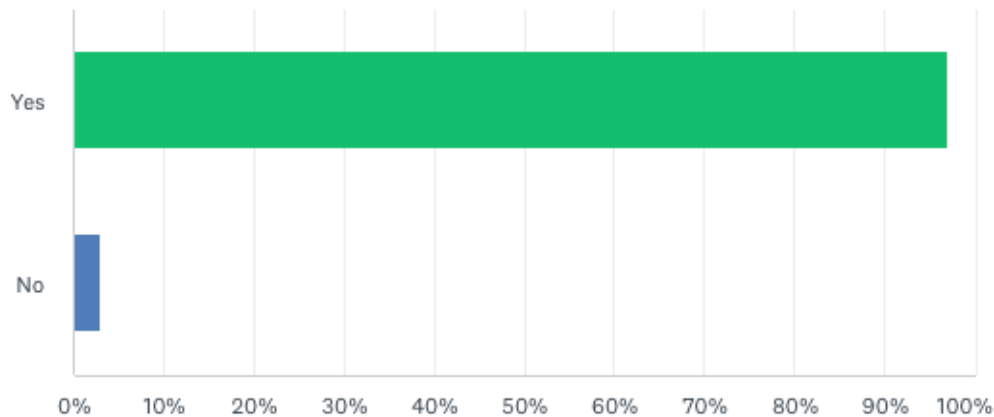
CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS PLAY STRATEGY 2023

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 !!!! "

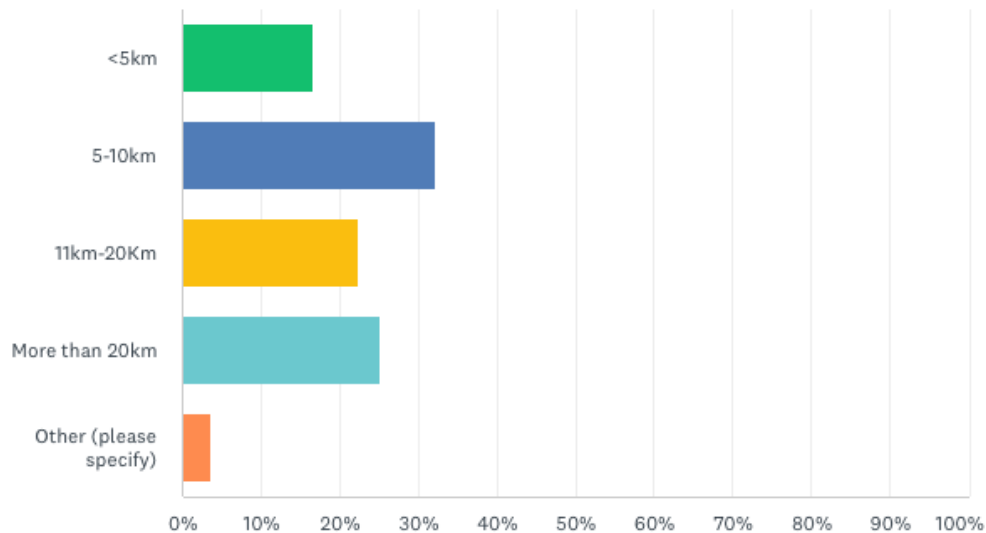
"Prefer places to sit, have a BBQ, sheltered. Allergic to chlorine...no no!"



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.

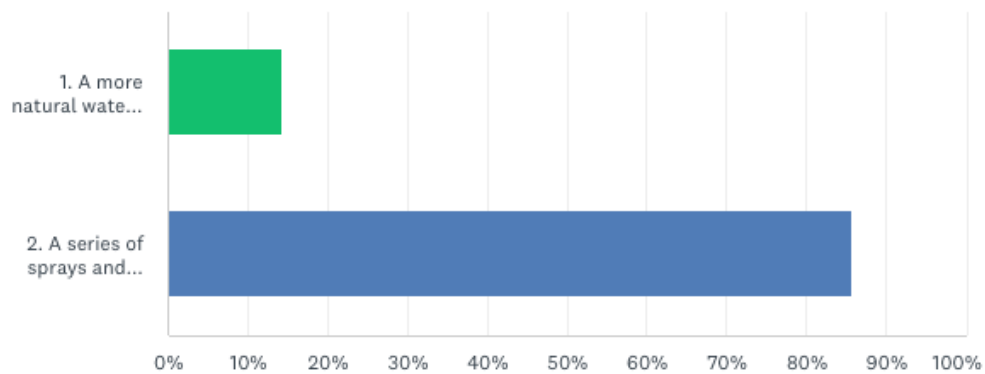
Location	<5km	5-10km	11-20Km	>20km	Other	Total
Maryborough	42	73	32	37	7	191
Carisbrook		14	10	4	2	30
North part of the Shire			1	7		8
Central part of the Shire	4	3	5	4		16
South part of the Shire		4	12	8		24
Outside CG		1	1	12	2	16
Total	46	95	61	72	11	285

**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:

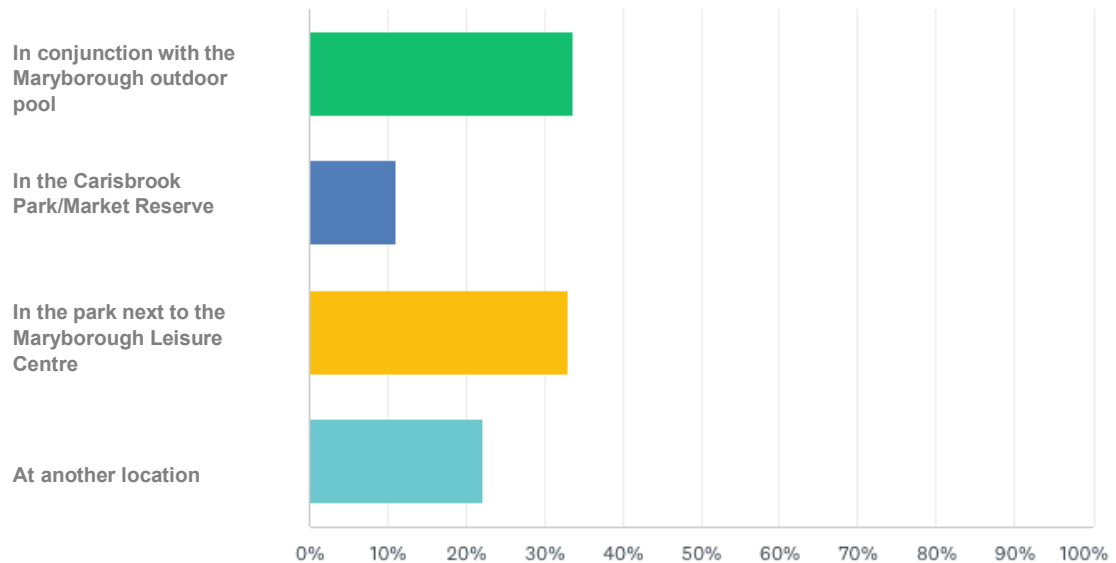
- a) A more natural water play area with hand pump, zero depth channels, sand play with vegetation etc., or
- b) A series of sprays and water play equipment on a paved apron.

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).

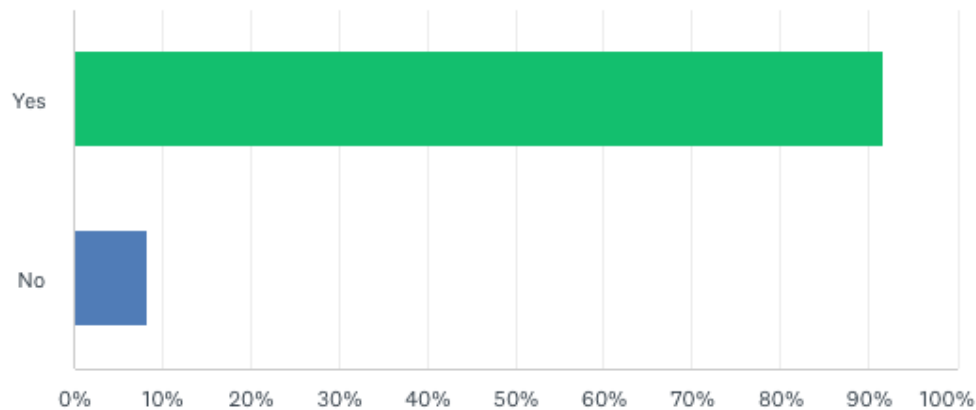
Location	North	Central	Maryborough	Carisbrook	South	Other	Total
With the Maryborough Outdoor Pool	5	3	71	3	11	3	96
Next to the Maryborough Leisure Centre	2	7	64	5	7	8	93
At another location*	1	5	48		5	5	64
In the Carisbrook Park/Market Reserve		1	8	22	1		32
Grand Total	8	16	191	30	24	16	285



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



CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS PLAY STRATEGY 2023

- 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?

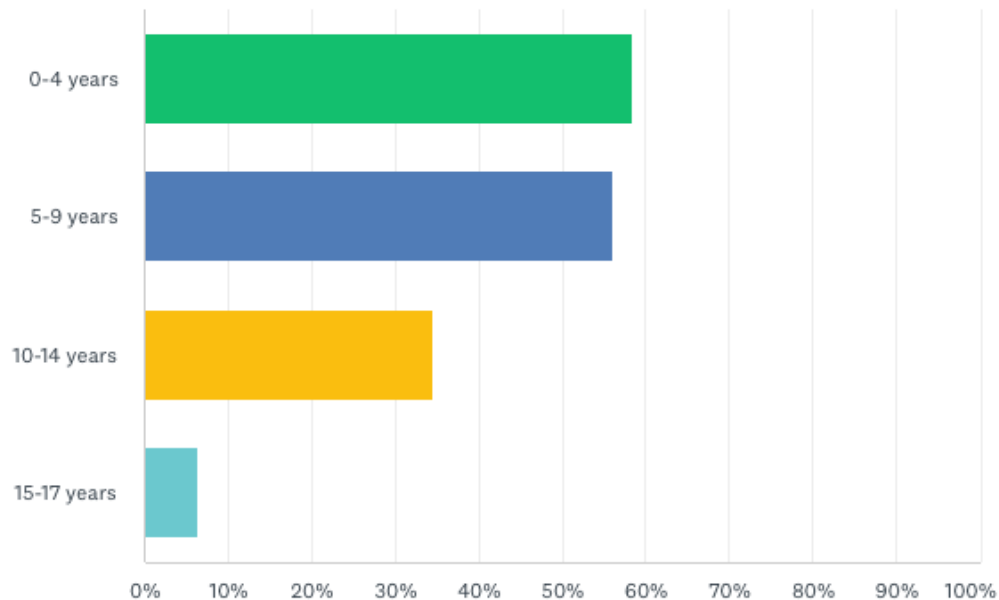
The majority of respondents to the survey were from Maryborough, as expected, as this town has the highest population in the Shire.

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%

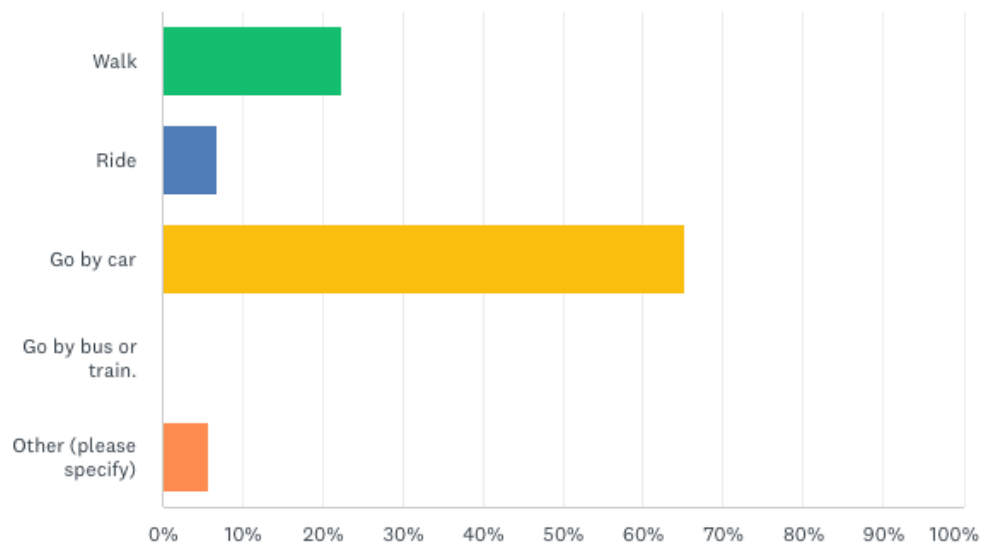
Suburb	Qty	%	Location
Adelaide Lead	1	0.3%	South
Alma	2	0.7%	Central
Amherst	2	0.7%	South
Bet Bet	3	1.0%	Central
Betley	2	0.7%	Central
Bowenvale	3	1.0%	Central
Bromley	2	0.7%	North
Carisbrook	31	10.6%	Carisbrook
Craigie	2	0.7%	South
Daisy Hill	7	2.4%	South
Dunluce	1	0.3%	North
Dunolly	4	1.4%	North
Flagstaff	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
- 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

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

**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 im 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 are 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 seem 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.

4.4 Princes Park Grandstand

Author: Coordinator Project Delivery

Responsible Officer: General Manager Infrastructure Assets and Planning

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council on the Princes Park Grandstand Detailed Design project, including the origin of the project, consultation undertaken to date and the concept designs.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse its draft Princes Park Grandstand Changeroom Concept design, provided as Attachment 2 to the report, for community consultation for a 3-week period.
2. Receive a further report, following the completion of the consultation process.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025:

The Community's vision:

Our Community's Wellbeing

1. Socially connected, creative, inclusive, healthy, and safe 'all ages' friendly communities.

Our Spaces and Places

3. Protection and preservation of heritage.
3. Engaging places and spaces for people to live, work, play and connect.

Leading Change

4. Activated, engaged, and informed citizens who have a say, volunteer, get involved in community matters.
4. Good planning, governance, and service delivery.

Initiative:

2021-2031 Community Vision
2024-2025 Council Annual Action Plan
Priority Projects Plan
Fair Access Policy
Conservation Management Plan
Recreation and Open Space Strategy
Maryborough Major Reserves Masterplan
UNESCO World Heritage Bid

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

By resolution of Council in February 2022, Council adopted the Priority Projects Plan 2022 which was guided by community priorities outlined in the 2021-2031 Community Vision and 2021-2025 Council Plan.

The Plan identifies Council's key major projects to both advocate for external investment and guide how Council prioritises its own investment in its Annual Budget process.

A renewed Priority Projects Plan was subsequently adopted by Council in November of 2023.

The Princes Park Grandstand was identified in both the 2022 and 2023 Priority Projects Plans, as a highly valued community asset.

A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was completed in 2021 identifying a range of urgent conservation and maintenance works required, including components such as the roof, roof truss structure, timber deck within the seating area and the leaning Northeast Corner post.

The CMP also found that the facilities are not adequate for the users, and recommended the spatial layout be examined by an architect.

Beyond the heritage values, the grandstand serves as an important community facility, supporting multiple sporting codes, the Highland Games and Energy Breakthrough.

The 2023 Priority Projects Plan identified prioritising investment into the following;

- A new design layout within the existing space to increase the functionality and use of the space and to upgrade facility
- Retrofitting of change rooms to be female friendly (players and umpires)
- Renewal of failed structural elements that support the historic grandstand at the Junction between the Grandstand and the New Club Room addition (in 1979)
- Redesign of layout to allow for more co-sharing of facilities
- Refurbishment of changing rooms and toilets
- Possible new lift and access to Grandstand to allow universal access to the Grandstand seating area
- Increasing disability access throughout the facility as per the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements
- Upgrade the Canteen to make it compliant with health and safety requirements

Provision of fit for purpose change facilities that meet the requirements of the State Sporting Associations – AFL, Netball, Cricket – for players and umpires will:

- Bring components within a significant historical Grandstand up to current standards, making it more user friendly and retaining its long history as a valued community sporting asset
- Ensure the Grandstand will be more accessible and inclusive and will be available for use by all community members
- Increase the functionality and use of a valued community asset

The Princes Park Grandstand Project is supported by the following strategic precedence of the Council:

- Central Goldfields Community Vision 2031
- Central Goldfields Shire Council Plan 2021–2025
 - Provide infrastructure to meet community need
 - Value and care for our heritage and cultural assets
- Active Central Goldfields, the Central Goldfields Shire's Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020–2029

- Continue planning to make the Princes Park Complex the Premier Sport, Recreation and Open Space
 - Increasing shared use by clubs/associations
 - Grandstand Renewal
- Princes Park Grandstand, Conservation Management Plan, 2021
 - The CMP recommends the Princes Park Grandstand to be restored to its former glory.
- Maryborough Major Reserves Master Plans 2022
- 2021 Conservation Management Plan
- Fair Access Policy
- UNESCO World Heritage Bid through maintaining and enhancing a highly valued heritage asset

In November 2022, the Victorian Government made a budget commitment of \$550,000 to female friendly changerooms at Princes Park.

The funding which is being administered through the Victorian Governments' Sport and Recreation Victoria department, is yet to be formerly executed through a funding contract, pending a project scope.

Subsequently in the 2023-2024 Annual Budget Process, Council committed \$200,000 to the design of the Princes Park Grandstand upgrades outlined in its Priority Projects Plan to assist with developing a project scope in line with the Victorian Government budget commitment and to get the overall project shovel ready for significant investment.

REPORT

In response to the Priority Projects Plan 2023, the requirements of the Victorian Government Female Friendly Change Rooms budget commitment, and the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan, officers prepared a specification for the design works in early 2024.

The scope for this encapsulates both the heritage conservation works necessary, and the floor plan reconfiguration required to meet the current, and potential future funding requirements.

After a public tender process, an architect was engaged and commenced work in July 2024.

Both the conservation and reconfiguration works required the same preliminary scope, including additional survey works, 3D modelling of the building, preparation of a full architectural 'existing conditions' drawing package, and the next phase of engineering assessment and design, including structural and services engineering. These works have been completed.

Investigations have also been undertaken to assess the current condition of the building and any changes that have occurred since the production of the CMP in 2021.

Extensive investigations were undertaken to identify original elements, and non-original elements of the building, to inform the potential extent of reconfiguration works whilst conserving the original heritage fabric of the building.

The current phase of the conservation works is the creation of a drawing package that visually represents the scope as set out in the CMP.

The reconfiguration works began with a consultation process, to engage with the community and key users of the building, to understand the current limitations, potential opportunities, and desired outcomes of the main stakeholders.

The architects produced an initial concept plan for the reconfiguration in late 2024, which was reviewed in detail during a workshop session with the user groups, led by the architect.

This resulted in well considered feedback, which was then utilised to extensively update the concept plans. Sport and Recreation Victoria were also consulted during this process.

These updated concept plans are now ready for presentation to the wider community and are attached to this report for consideration.

After completion of community consultation and any required updates that arise, the final phase of the current project will be design development relating to the reconfiguration, and to integrate both the heritage conservation works and the reconfiguration works in to a single package for presentation to Heritage Victoria.

This project, with the current available funding, will culminate in a heritage permit application to Heritage Victoria.

At this stage, officers are confident that all architectural drawings and documentation will be developed to a level that is satisfactory for funding applications, should a suitable opportunity arise.

The next and final phase of design (when funding is available) is the remaining detailed design works required for a construction tender.

Victorian Government Budget Commitment

In attempting to develop a suitable project scope to best utilise the \$550,000 Female Friendly Change Room Victorian Government budget commitment, significant challenges were presented.

First and foremost is the concern that the primary female user group at Princes Park currently is Netball, and this group does not utilise the grandstand, due to the physical distance between the grandstand and the netball court.

The second concern is that investing in any significant upgrades of the change room areas within the grandstand would not be appropriate without first addressing the main conservation related issues, including water ingress, termite damage, structural concerns etc.

Finally, the \$550,000 committed by the Victorian Government falls far short of the amount required to undertake works within the current change room space in the heritage listed portion of the grandstand, particularly when the structural and conservation concerns must first be addressed prior to commencing any such works.

Officers have worked closely with representatives of Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) in refining the currently proposed layout plan, to ensure that the upgrades would be suitable for both current, and future funding applications.

During these discussions, the concerns listed above regarding the female friendly budget allocation have been raised.

Officers are currently working on a proposal in conjunction with representatives of SRV. Councillors will be briefed on the outcome of these negotiations.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

An Engage webpage was published on 18 April 2024 advising community members there would soon be an opportunity to provide feedback about the future of the Grandstand.

The community were invited to participate in a survey from 5 August 2024, open until 25 November 2024.

The attached Community Responses document gives detail of the thirty-five submissions received and is available online.

220 members of the community visited the website, fifty-four of which downloaded a document or read the further information available, and thirty-five provided submissions.

The key stakeholder groups identified included;

- Maryborough Cricket Club
- Maryborough Football Netball Club

- Maryborough Highland Gathering
- Energy Breakthrough

Two key stakeholder workshops were held at the Grandstand in 2024.

The first workshop on 24 July 2024 was to introduce the key stakeholders to the project and to fully understand how the Grandstand is currently used.

The workshop included two activities - "current issues and redundancies" and "what you want from the space."

The only stakeholder not represented in this workshop was Maryborough Highland Gathering, and they did not provide any feedback through writing.

The second workshop on 10 December 2024 was to present the initial concept designs to highlight any potential revisions prior to issuing to the broader community for feedback.

This was led by the architect and well considered responses were received.

Based on this feedback the concept designs were revised accordingly and are now reflective of the feedback and stakeholder requirements.

The next step will be to present the draft plans to the community online and request feedback.

This is proposed to occur for 3 weeks from 5 May until 30 May 2025.

The opportunity for feedback will be shared across our social media channels, in the weekly Council advert in the Maryborough District Advertiser and on the radio.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The current funding available, committed by Council in the 2023-2024 Annual Budget Process (and subsequently carried forward as a multi-year project commitment), will take the project to the Heritage Permit application phase.

It will also have all architectural drawings and documentation developed to a level that is satisfactory for funding applications, should a suitable opportunity arise.

Progressing the designs to the final phase, including the final detailed design work, would reduce the risk of cost or schedule overruns during the construction phase once funded.

There is a potential opportunity for this to be funded, or partially funded, as part of the Victorian Government budget commitment of \$550,000 towards female friendly changerooms at Princes Park, subject to ongoing negotiations.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk:

Community Wellbeing - Failure to recognise and manage the impact of changing social and economic conditions on the community through the development of contemporary design for the Princes Park Grandstand to ensure compliance with the Building Code, Disability Discrimination Act, State Sporting Association Guidelines and Councils own Fair Access Policy.

Property and Assets - Failure to maintain, renew and expand our assets in a timely and robust way, which considers service and delivery needs by investing in detailed design work which addresses heritage conservation and updating Councils assets to contemporary standards.

Community engagement- Inadequate stakeholder management or engagement impacting brand reputation and community satisfaction in Council decision making by undertaking community engagement and co-design of community facilities to ensure current and future stakeholder needs are met.

CONCLUSION

The current design project is significantly progressed, in relation to the conservation works and the designs will soon be ready for submission to Heritage Victoria for a heritage permit application.

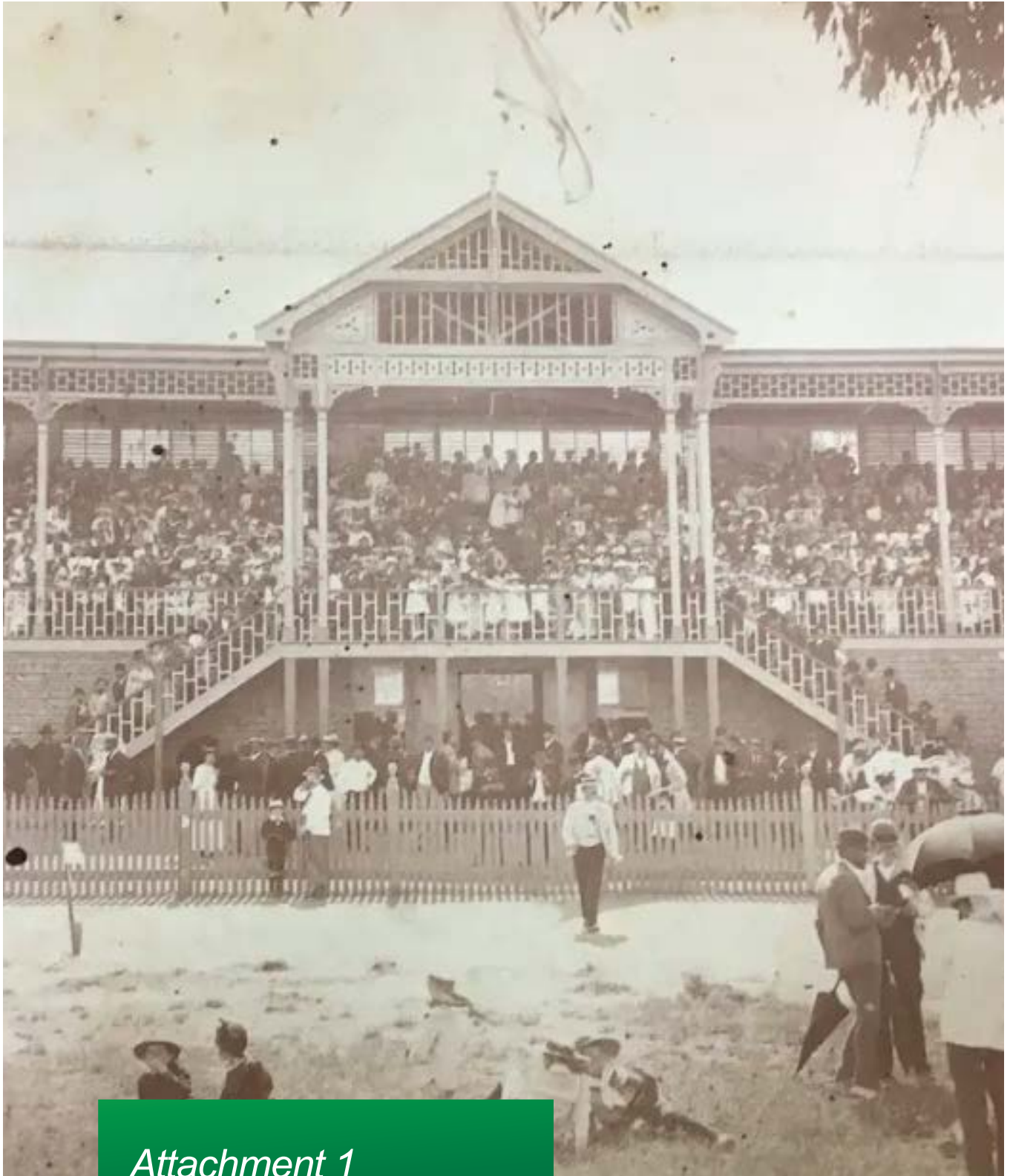
The engaged architects, in consultation with officers, conservation experts, various users of the facility, and Sport and Recreation Victoria have developed a robust concept for the reconfiguration of the floor plan of Prince Park Grandstand.

The proposed changes will provide significantly enhanced amenities for the current user groups, female friendly facilities not currently available, and will facilitate improved disability access throughout the building.

It is recommended that Council adopt the draft Princes Park Grandstand Changeroom Concept design for the purposes of Public Consultation for a period of three (3) weeks.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 Community Responses Grandstand Survey **[4.4.1]**
2. Attachment 2 Princes Park Grandstand Existing and Proposed **[4.4.2]**



Attachment 1
**Community
Responses
Grandstand Survey**



Princes Park precinct is a much-loved destination and has been used by individuals and groups over many generations.

The Grandstand is the jewel in the crown of this precinct. It is an iconic landmark in Maryborough and the backdrop to community sport and the award-winning Energy Breakthrough event.

In 2022 a Conservation Management Plan was developed for the Grandstand - to provide guidance for the conservation and heritage management so that the Grandstand can be preserved for years to come.

Our first step is to get clear on what our community needs are, and to develop detailed designs to support funding opportunities when suitable grants become available.

Community Engagement so far

In July we met with key existing users of the Grandstand to understand how the space is currently used, including what works well, and what doesn't. This allowed our designer to create a brief for concept designs.

We ran this survey to get community feedback on the current use of the Grandstand and potential future uses. This will help us as we build on the design over the next six to twelve months.

Our key stakeholder group

- Maryborough Cricket Club
- Maryborough Football Netball Club
- Maryborough Highland Gathering
- Energy Breakthrough

Next steps

Initial concept designs will be shared with the key stakeholder group to ensure we have captured everything raised at the first session. Once we have assessed this feedback, concept designs will be available for community comment in early 2025.

Any designs will need to be approved by Heritage Victoria, so designs may change during this process to accommodate the important heritage component.

**Respondent No:** 1**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 08, 2024 11:17:47 am**Last Seen:** Aug 08, 2024 11:17:47 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?** Yes

Q2. **If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?** Football Club Canteen & Dinners

Q3. **What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?**

Keeping the heritage look is super important with the grand steps and wooden seating. The colours also stand out, although need a re coat. The upstairs social rooms and kitchen are are great asset, as is the downstairs canteen

Q4. **What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?**

The upstairs kitchen could be used as an area to run cooking classes and to prepare meals for less fortunate within the community.

Q5. **What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?**

More community use and accessibility, along with updated canteen and kitchen facilities.

Q6. **Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!** not answered

**Respondent No:** 2**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 08, 2024 12:41:35 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 08, 2024 12:41:35 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

To watch football

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

The look

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Concerts, outdoor cinema for community fundraising

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Maintain it, keep the homeless drug users out of it, improve the seating and lighting

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 3**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 08, 2024 13:40:55 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 08, 2024 13:40:55 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area? Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it? Watching football and cricket

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

Gorgeous design, heritage.

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Could be used for school concerts, movie nights (projector and speakers)

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Restored to former glory Neat and clean

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project! not answered

**Respondent No:** 4**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 08, 2024 14:21:18 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 08, 2024 14:21:18 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area? Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it? Watching sport

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained? It's character

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit? Music have stage on wing ,cinema have screen on wing

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand? not answered

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project! not answered

**Respondent No:** 5**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 08, 2024 14:41:53 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 08, 2024 14:41:53 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

No

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

I did but dont now due to structural concerns and the leftover waste left by recreational drug users and people squatting in the grand stand

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

The memories of a child watching sport on the oval and the highland games - the ability for my children to do the same in a safe and supported manner

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

not answered

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

not answered

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 6**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 10, 2024 21:21:24 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 10, 2024 21:21:24 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area? Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it? Watching local sport

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

The heritage features

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Music and other community events

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Key ground for watching local sport, community events and school events

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project! not answered

**Respondent No:** 7**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 11, 2024 18:53:43 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 11, 2024 18:53:43 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area? Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it? Watching the local football

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?
?

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?
The local football and their future games

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?
Football Safety Install cameras

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!
not answered

**Respondent No:** 8**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 12, 2024 14:34:33 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 12, 2024 14:34:33 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

Sit in there to watch events

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

It's an icon and should be restored to its former glory

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Everyone who wants to be out of the weather to watch footy, enjoy New Year's Day and the fireworks

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Somewhere to sit out of the weather To enjoy local events To watch the footy

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 9**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 12, 2024 14:45:27 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 12, 2024 14:45:27 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

It's a magnificent historic feature and used for seating and viewing events on Princes Park.

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

It's a unique grandstand and needs to be restored to its former glory as is.

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

The grandstand could be lit up during the night to feature in our historic building locations great for tourism.

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

To be preserved historically To be safe comfortable and shelter from the weather To remain a showcase location of our region

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 10**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 12, 2024 18:03:10 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 12, 2024 18:03:10 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

I was using the Grandstand for exercise stepping up and down. Especially great during the covid times. Now I have stopped as it's become unsafe for me.

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

I would love the steps to be refurbished. The seating painted and restored. To make it viable for people to want to go to our entertainment events and feel comfortable using the Grandstand.

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

I have seen over several years groups of people getting together to use the stairs as a community get together in other towns. This could definitely happen if the Grandstand was restored safely.

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Clean up the seats. Restore the stairs. Fix and clean the inside roofing area. Make it a pride of our town. The Grandstand deserves to be admired, not looked on as an eyesore.

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

**Respondent No:** 11**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 12, 2024 18:06:30 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 12, 2024 18:06:30 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area? not answered

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it? not answered

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained? not answered

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit? not answered

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand? not answered

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

**Respondent No:** 12**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 12, 2024 22:53:10 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 12, 2024 22:53:10 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area? Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it? Watching football

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained? Heritage look

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit? Dunno

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand? Improve functionality of the change rooms and canteen facilities underneath the grandstand to make the facility more usable

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project! not answered

**Respondent No:** 13**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 14, 2024 12:11:09 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 14, 2024 12:11:09 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

Goldfields FM attends and broadcasts community events from the grandstand.

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

It provides a marvellous historic background to community events and is still functional despite its age and condition. When you are standing on the oval broadcasting the Girl On The Drum at the Highland Gathering and the grandstand is full of mesmerised spectators you get goosebumps!

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

It is vital that the Magpies have a future. More community activities could be held at Princes Park.

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Continued use for community and major events.

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 14**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 19, 2024 21:59:49 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 19, 2024 21:59:49 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

To watch events held there

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

It's iconic to Maryborough and like to see it restored to its past beauty .

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Can use for many things the ground provides it's a benefit to the township

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Football Cricket New Years Day

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

**Respondent No:** 15**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 24, 2024 13:36:31 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 24, 2024 13:36:31 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

I don't use the grandstand, but use the surrounding area. It feels "off limits" to those not directly involved with the footy club.

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

I love the look and historical nature of the grandstand. It's wonderful that it is still utilized for sports and events like EB.

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Wider community use, use as accessible community rooms that can be hired at no/low cost for groups, yoga, playgroups, cooking etc.

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Broader public use for a wider demographic, and ensuring the grandstand is maintained for future use.

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 16**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 28, 2024 16:16:12 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 28, 2024 16:16:12 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

Seating for football/soccer games. We often use the toilets at the back when walking. And we have hired the clubrooms alongside the grandstand for functions.

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

The heritage, beautiful colours and ornate timber work. It's one of the jewels of our town and a wonderful spot for the community to gather. It's great to have the ramp entrance via the clubrooms for accessibility.

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

As a community building location, I would love to see it used for more sports/concerts/outdoor events. With a good upgrade the clubroom next door could be used more frequently for meeting/event spaces as it is a picturesque view showcasing a beautiful view of our town.

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Upgrade of changing room facilities and toilets (eg. Lighting and locks on the toilet doors). Maintain heritage but repairs when needed Use of grandstand for a wide range of community events.

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 17**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Aug 28, 2024 17:47:26 pm**Last Seen:** Aug 28, 2024 17:47:26 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

Watching sporting events

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

The heritage of the building

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Large events

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

To keep the heritage and available to use

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 18**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Sep 01, 2024 06:52:21 am**Last Seen:** Sep 01, 2024 06:52:21 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?** Yes

Q2. **If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?** On the odd occasion for football

Q3. **What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?**

It's history, it is a beautiful looking grandstand. It would be shame to just let it rot away and look feral. The town needs to be kept beautiful to attract more young families.

Q4. **What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?**

Schools for sporting events. A local football club if the other club is folding. Music events in summer on the oval. Cricket in summer.

Q5. **What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?**

Sports summer and winter School use Summer events - highland gathering, music events

Q6. **Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!** not answered

**Respondent No:** 19**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Sep 03, 2024 18:56:10 pm**Last Seen:** Sep 03, 2024 18:56:10 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area? Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it? watching the footy

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

The amount of people that can sit up there

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Energy breakthrough People

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Be able to watch footy Enough seats for everyone Clean

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

**Respondent No:** 20**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Sep 03, 2024 18:58:18 pm**Last Seen:** Sep 03, 2024 18:58:18 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area? Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it? Football netball, place to see friends

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

i like that it's used during finals

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Concerts #hosttaylorswift

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

- make it so no water runs through roof - wind proof on right hand side - clean seats

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

**Respondent No:** 21**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Sep 04, 2024 19:27:32 pm**Last Seen:** Sep 04, 2024 19:27:32 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area? Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it? During Maryborough Football matches

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

It's natural beauty having been built over 100 years ago. Retaining the original facade but updating it for safety.

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

not answered

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Sporting activities Town events Access for fitness, stair climbing

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project! not answered

**Respondent No:** 22**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 20, 2024 16:33:35 pm**Last Seen:** Nov 20, 2024 16:33:35 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

No

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

I attended the Highland games and thought the grandstand was so special. I am involved in theatre and musical shows and tour Victoria, so i can see by comparison to other towns just how special this building is.

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

The historic building is such an asset for the district. I have no interest in sport but understand this was built specifically for the sporting ground. I feel it is underutilized if it is just used exclusively for sporting. The gardens and lake are charming and there is such potential in this area. I am not from Maryborough, but near enough in Dunolly so I do know the building. It is sad when i hear locals from Maryborough speak negatively of their own town. Maryborough has so much going for it and I believe will be a special tourist town in the future.

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Maryborough has lovely summer evenings ideal for outdoor entertainment. It would be very exciting to see outdoor classical music events (such as Andre Rieu but on a smaller scale). It would be ideal for operas, dog shows or even movie nights.

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

preserve the integrity and history of the building. Use it for other things than sport. Open it in the summer evenings for occasional food and wine or music nights.

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 23**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 21, 2024 10:14:16 am**Last Seen:** Nov 21, 2024 10:14:16 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

During footy season at home games

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

It's the best looking ground/grandstand in country Victoria...

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Better lights would make it great for night sport

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

For all thing... Footy Cricket Running School sport Nothing better then seeing the grandstand full

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 24**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 21, 2024 10:22:53 am**Last Seen:** Nov 21, 2024 10:22:53 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area? No

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it? not answered

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

It's very grand and stands out in the town

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Concerts /the whole community

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Sporting events

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project! not answered

**Respondent No:** 25**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 21, 2024 11:02:58 am**Last Seen:** Nov 21, 2024 11:02:58 am**IP Address:** n/a

- Q1. **Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?** Yes
-
- Q2. **If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?** Football, school sports events and events seating, stair climb fitness
-
- Q3. **What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?**
Heritage, versatility, open/available
-
- Q4. **What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?**
Broader use of the precinct by schools
-
- Q5. **What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?**
Refurbish for current uses. Possible use for little aths
-
- Q6. **Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!** not answered
-

**Respondent No:** 26**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 21, 2024 12:46:34 pm**Last Seen:** Nov 21, 2024 12:46:34 pm**IP Address:** n/a

- Q1. **Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?** Yes
-
- Q2. **If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?** Occasional attendance to functions being held there, SES training, exercise daily there.
-
- Q3. **What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?**
Historic look and features. Access to public at all times.musical
-
- Q4. **What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?**
Musical entertainment, residents benefit.
-
- Q5. **What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?**
Public accessibility, sporting functions, New Years Day activities and similar.
-
- Q6. **Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!** not answered
-

**Respondent No:** 27**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 21, 2024 14:18:50 pm**Last Seen:** Nov 21, 2024 14:18:50 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?**

Yes

Q2. **If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?**

Viewing footy, cricket, other community events, and exercise.

Q3. **What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?**

I love its impressive architectural heritage design, and that it provides a venue for bringing the community together for various activities and events.

Q4. **What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?**

It could be used for various, suitable concerts and events, whether for business, pleasure or personal usage. It provides a draw card for our town! For example, the Energy Breakthrough. An outdoor movie venue would also likely be popular; Carz n coffee; a weekend market. Just need to give more time to think outside the box!

Q5. **What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?**

. Various sports' events and activities, and other community entertainment . A venue for visiting services and events .
Emergency location in times of urgent community care

Q6. **Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!**

**Respondent No:** 28**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 21, 2024 14:42:54 pm**Last Seen:** Nov 21, 2024 14:42:54 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

I use it on New Year's Day and if it's raining I go there to get out of the rain. It is beautiful to sit there and look out.

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

I would love to see it retained as it is but painted and fixed up. It's too big of an asset to let it deteriorate.

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Not sure

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Just the usual open for all who want to use it.

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 29**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 21, 2024 16:28:23 pm**Last Seen:** Nov 21, 2024 16:28:23 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

All sports. 1st January

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

It is unique

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

What bull fix it this is history of Maryborough

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

You shouldnt even be asking these questions

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 30**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 21, 2024 16:48:39 pm**Last Seen:** Nov 21, 2024 16:48:39 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area? Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it? Watch sporting events, score cricket.

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

Everything about it, dressing rooms and seats, the whole thing.

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Restoration of garden groups

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Safety from destruction by vandalism, restoration and upkeep. Restoration of gardens to Victorian period.

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

**Respondent No:** 31**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 21, 2024 21:24:49 pm**Last Seen:** Nov 21, 2024 21:24:49 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

No

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

only for footy back when it was useable

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

it's historical signifigance. A wish that there could be more events in town that would bring everyone together and the grandstand would be relevant again.

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

I guess the levels removed, a flat floor installed..... open sides filled in with windows and used for....? Something for the town, not offices etc....

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

1 community useage 2 Historical integrity maintained 3 not sure

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 32**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 22, 2024 16:36:18 pm**Last Seen:** Nov 22, 2024 16:36:18 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area? Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it? Sit in it

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained? Everything

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit? not answered

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand? Restore & maintain

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project! not answered

**Respondent No:** 33**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 22, 2024 19:06:25 pm**Last Seen:** Nov 22, 2024 19:06:25 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

No

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

I was born & raised in Maryborough & still have strong connections to the town & although I would only use the Grandstand a few times a year I cannot imagine the park without it

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

It is so important that our Maryborough Grandstand is retained as there are very few communities that have such a wonderful facility. I have been very fortunate to attend Highland Gatherings in Australia and overseas and none have had Grandstands to compare with our Maryborough Grandstand, in fact most did not have seating to accommodate crowds.

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

A sporting museum that operates in conjunction with the Railway Station to promote to tourists how great both these facilities are

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

Be restored to its former glory Incorporate all the facilities that are part of the Grandstand to be available to the general public
Encourage all sporting groups to make use of the facilities

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 34**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 23, 2024 02:08:46 am**Last Seen:** Nov 23, 2024 02:08:46 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

Walking the lake and oval area. Sometimes just stop and rest here. Beautiful view over tge area.

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

Keep it as it was created. It's a lovely piece of history for our town.

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Entertainment (concerts, music festivals, etc) on the grass with seating that allows the audience a great view. School sporting events (if tge oval could be marked for evsnts).

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

1. Maintain the building. 2. Hold entertainment and use the grandstand as a seating/viewing area. 3. ?

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

**Respondent No:** 35**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 23, 2024 15:41:33 pm**Last Seen:** Nov 23, 2024 15:41:33 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area? not answered

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it? not answered

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained? not answered

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit? not answered

Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand? not answered

Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

**Respondent No:** 36**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Nov 23, 2024 16:31:27 pm**Last Seen:** Nov 23, 2024 16:31:27 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Do you currently use Princes Park Grandstand or the surrounding area?

Yes

Q2. If you do use the Grandstand, how do you use it?

During football finals I love to sit up there as a spectator. Also occasionally use the stairs for fitness reasons.

Q3. What do you love about the Grandstand and want to see retained?

I love the heritage. I'd like to see the overall look retained- restored & repainted in keeping with the era it was built in.

Q4. What else could the Grandstand be used for, and who might benefit?

Any sporting event in the local area. Would be great to see some local events held in that area, maybe a resurrection of the historic wattle festival.

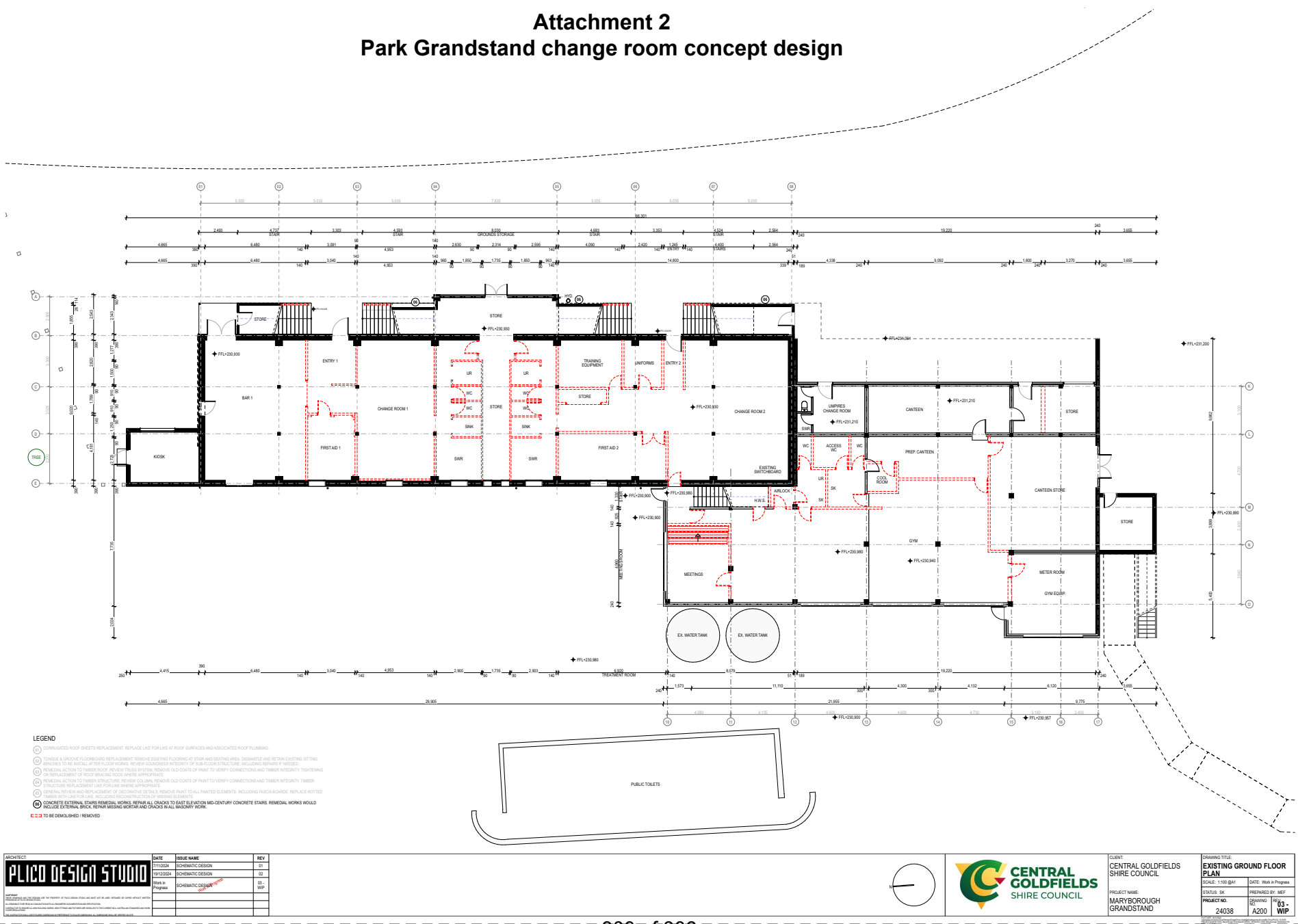
Q5. What are your top three priorities for the future use of the Grandstand?

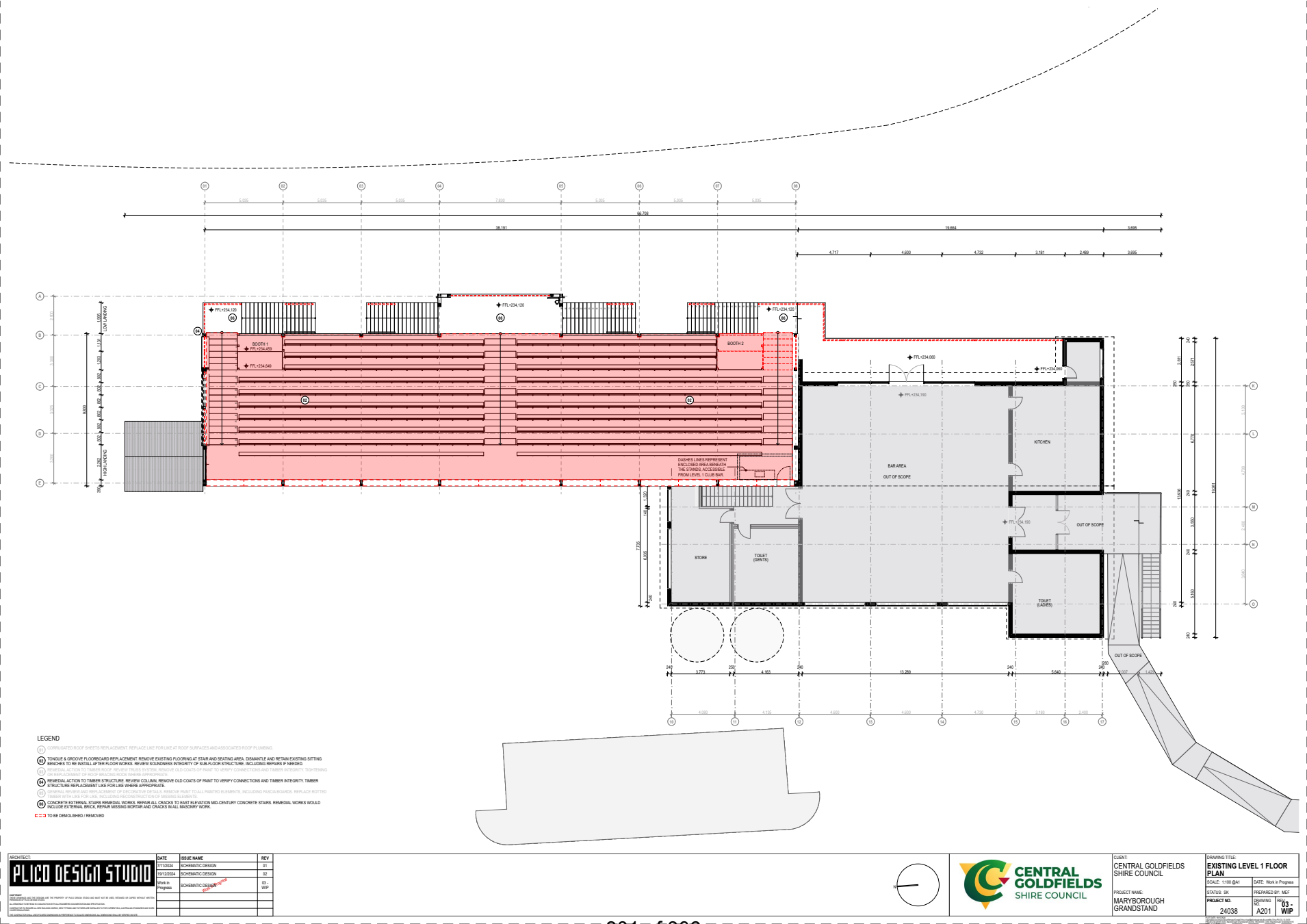
1. Refurbishment. - repaired & restored to its former glory 2. Unsure if its a priority, but the installation of a sound system that is appropriate to be used in an area so large. The sound at recent football finals & the highland gathering is dismal. 3. The refurbishment of the "Maryborough Club Rooms" & the kitchen & most importantly the canteen is vital. The canteen in particular is archaic & how it passes hygiene / safety standards is beyond me. Oil drips from the ceiling onto volunteers when the fryer is in use. This space could be used for community events, & potentially marketed for private events.

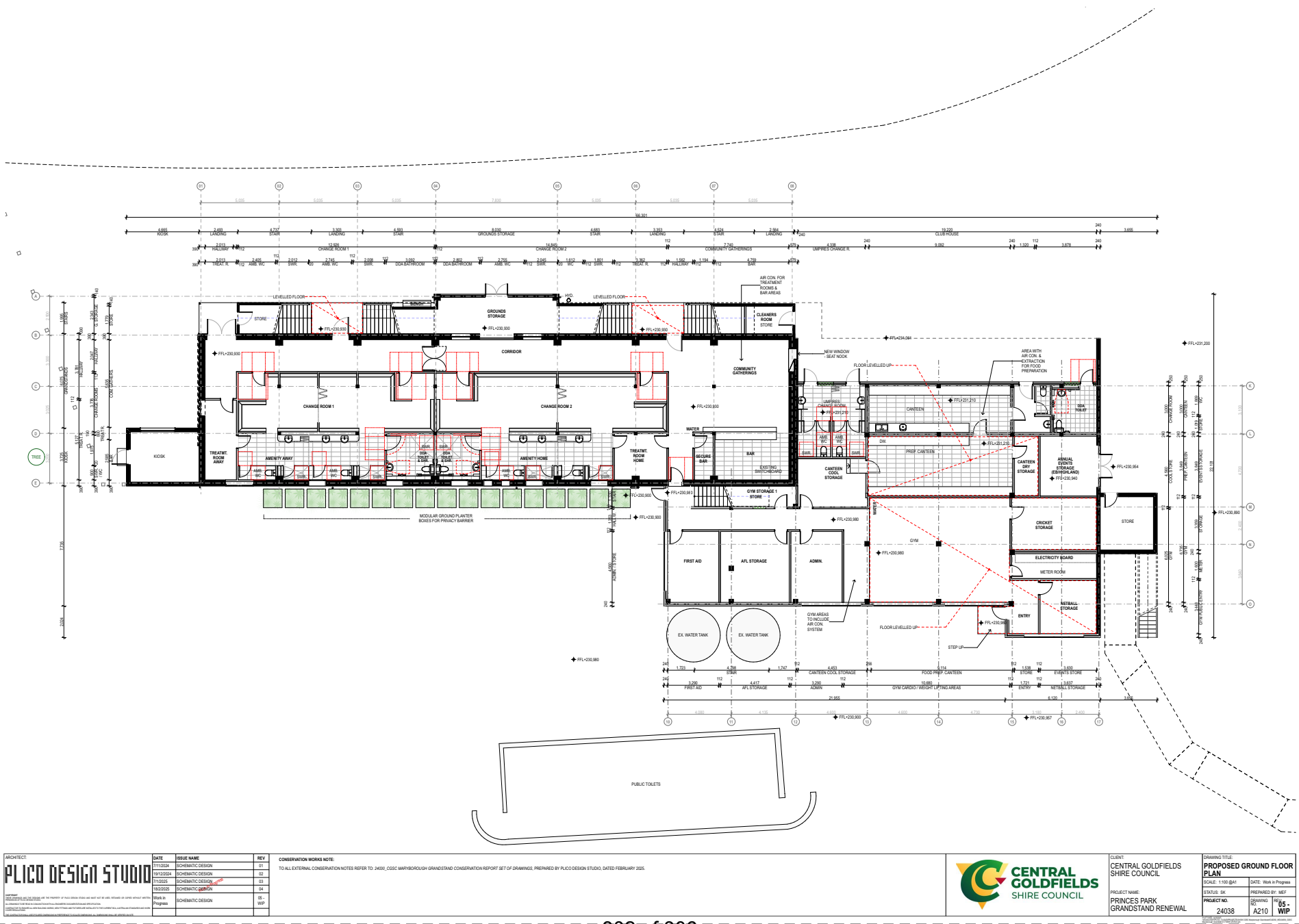
Q6. Do you have a picture of your or your family's favourite memory at the Grandstand? Upload here, and selected community photos may be incorporated into the project!

not answered

Attachment 2
Park Grandstand change room concept design







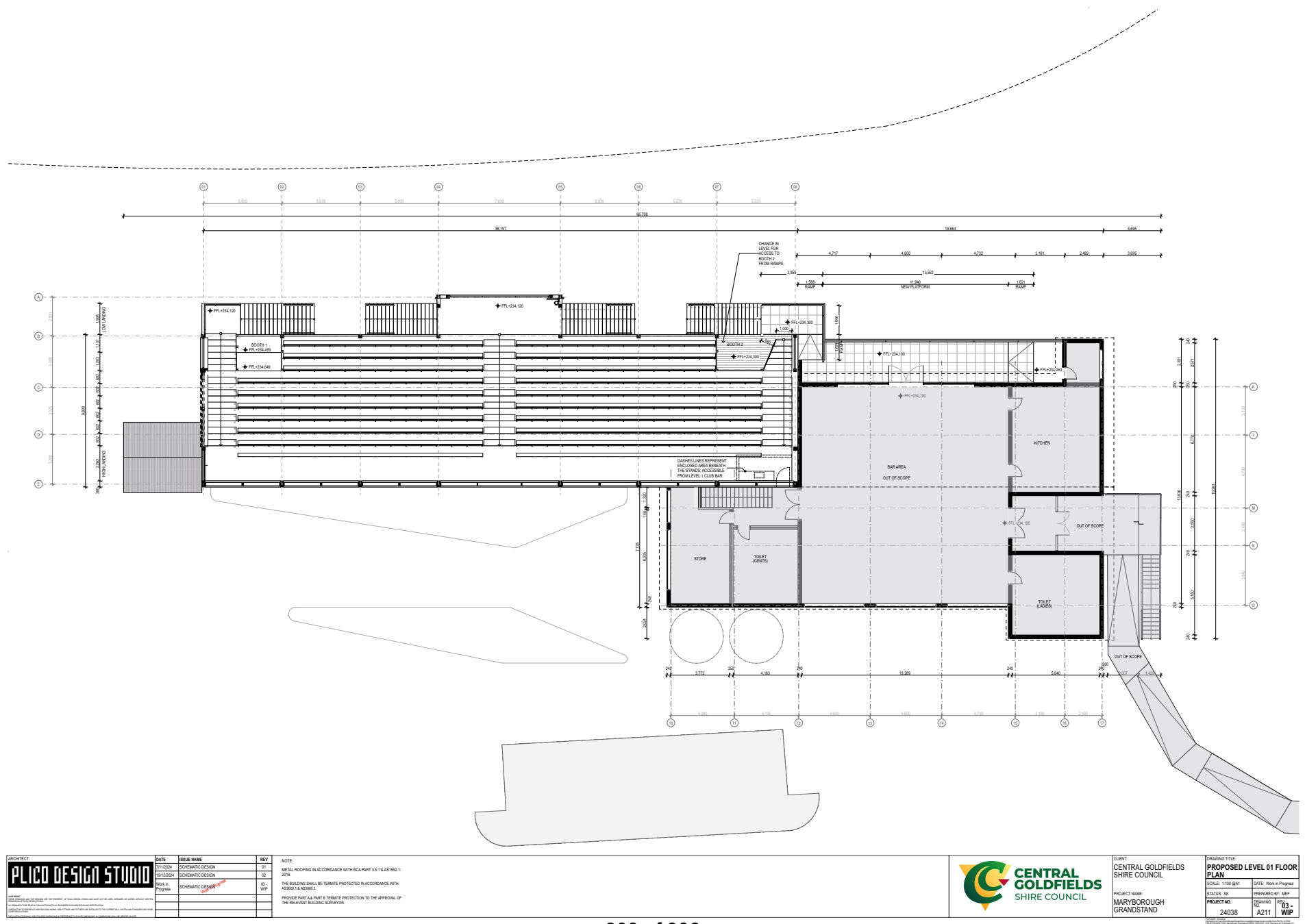
ARCHITECT	DATE	ISSUE NAME	REV
PLICO DESIGN STUDIO <small>PLICO DESIGN STUDIO PTY LTD 1/100 BAYVIEW AVENUE, BAYVIEW VIC 3185 TEL: 03 9493 1111 WWW.PLICODSIGNSTUDIO.COM.AU</small>	17/11/2024	SCHEMATIC DESIGN	01
	25/12/2024	SCHEMATIC DESIGN	02
	27/02/25	SCHEMATIC DESIGN	03
	18/02/25	SCHEMATIC DESIGN	04
	27/04/25	SCHEMATIC DESIGN	05 - WIP
PROJECT NAME	PRINCES PARK GRANDSTAND RENEWAL		

CONSERVATION WORKS NOTE:
TO ALL EXTERNAL CONSERVATION NOTES REFER TO: 2403_OSC MAYRIBOROUGH GRANDSTAND CONSERVATION REPORT SET OF DRAWINGS, PREPARED BY PLICO DESIGN STUDIO, DATED FEBRUARY 2025.



CLIENT: CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE COUNCIL
PROJECT NAME: PRINCES PARK GRANDSTAND RENEWAL

DRAWING TITLE	
PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN	
SCALE: 1:150 @A1	DATE: Work in Progress
STATUS: SK	PREPARED BY: MEF
PROJECT NO: 24038	DRAWING NO: 05 - WIP



4.5 Council Approval to allow completion of works under Contract G1760-23 Flood Emergency Works (Civil) – Panel of Suppliers

Author: General Manager Infrastructure Assets and Planning

Responsible Officer: General Manager Infrastructure Assets and Planning

The Officer presenting this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

SUMMARY/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to complete a late tender process under a pre-existing Panel of Suppliers Tender Contract – G1760-23, for works that Council has received external funding (Federal Governments' Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements – DRFA)

Council approved Contract G1760-23, for a period of two years, and with an option of a one-year extension, at the March 2023 Council meeting.

Unfortunately, two final tenders under this Contract (which were advertised on 3 March 2025), were not finalised and awarded by the date the Panel Contract expired (28 March 2025).

Further, the one-year contract extension was not taken up by Council by the due date.

This report serves to inform Council about the unexpected administrative delay in satisfactorily meeting the approved contract timelines.

The report seeks Council approval to award two late tenders under G1760-23 Flood Emergency Works (Civil) – Panel of Suppliers which will be the last two packages of work to be completed in relation to this contract.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the report.
2. Approves the late tender process, advertised on 3 March 2025 under the umbrella of Contract G1760-23, be allowed to be executed under the said Contract G1760-23.
3. Authorises the CEO under delegation to ensure that recommendation two above, is promptly actioned.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025:

The Community's vision:

Leading Change

4. Good planning, governance, and service delivery.
4. Transparent decision making.
4. Effective and sustainable financial management.

Initiative:

Provide financial sustainability and good governance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the March 2023 Council meeting, Council approved Contract G1760-23 Flood Emergency Works (Civil) – Panel of Suppliers, for a period of two years and with an option to extend for one year.

The purpose of the Panel of Suppliers was to undertake works funded by the Federal Governments' Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) funding.

Council approved the appointment of thirteen tenderers to its Panel of Suppliers, based on a schedule of rates.

The nature of the Flood Recovery Works includes, but not limited to:

- Culvert and bridge cleaning and repairs;
- Table drain repairs;
- Pothole repairs;
- Grading of Unsealed roads;
- Repairs to Sealed and Unsealed roads;
- Shoulder grading;
- Cleaning and vegetation removal; and
- Road signage works.

REPORT

This report has resulted due to an administrative delay in initiating and finalising two late tenders by 28 March 2025.

In addition, there was a failure to take up the one-year extension available under the approved Contract.

Notwithstanding the failure to act earlier, Council officers had intended to adhere to the requirements of the Contract and its stipulated end date.

Further, the submitters to these two late tenders have clearly noted in their submissions that their prices are valid for 90 days from the date of submission (24 March 2025).

From Council's perspective, it is important that it continues to display the highest level of accountability and transparency with processes associated with procurement.

Additionally, this matter has raised some opportunities to better improve internal processes, and the CEO is keen to ensure that they are promptly pursued and implemented.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

The nature of this report does not in itself require any specific external consultation or communication.

Internally, the author of this report has sought advice from Councils Governance Advisor.

Officers will prepare a report for a future Audit and Risk Committee meeting to brief them on this matter as well as the improvements which will be put in place to mitigate further occurrences of this nature.

FINANCIAL& RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The late tendered works are funded through the Federal Government under its Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

The two tenders are for the final two packages in the funding arrangement and therefore no further contract extension is required.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This report addresses Council's strategic risk:

- Financial sustainability - Failure to maintain our long-term financial sustainability
- Governance - Failure to transparently govern and embrace good governance practices

- Legislative compliance - Failure to manage our compliance with relevant legislative requirements

Failure to address this issue, may result in missing out on available external funding, and the community having to endure an unsatisfactory and unsafe level of amenity regarding the standard of roadways, signage, and drains.

CONCLUSION

This report is presented to Council for consideration to ensure that the amenity and infrastructure needs of our community are being maintained and to maintain transparency and good governance in our procurement activities.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

5 Meeting Closure