Berri Barmera Council Playspace Blueprint

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Acknowledgement of Country

Berri Barmera Council acknowledges the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region – the Ngaiawang, Ngawait, Nganguruku, Erawirung, Ngintait, Ngaralte, and Ngarkat peoples – as the traditional custodians of our land. We respect their cultural beliefs, and value their past, present, and ongoing spiritual connection with the lands and waters of our region.



Planning for a diverse range of experiences, opportunities, and settings for play in the Berri Barmera District.





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Section One: Introduction

1.1 Project Background

Over recent years the Berri-Barmera Council has developed or drafted several plans and strategies relating to sport and recreation, to include, but not limited to the following:

- Open Space Strategy 2010
- Riverland-Murraylands Regional Sports Facility Strategy 2017
- Part completion of a Masterplan for Alan Glassy Park in 2022
- Coombe Street Reserve and Recreation Facilities Masterplan 2020
- Berri-Barmera Growth Strategy 2022,
- Arts and Culture Strategy and Action Plan 2022

Council has not however, developed a specific strategy relating to the provision of play opportunities across the district and whilst this should be driven or directed by its open space framework, this is now outdated and in need of renewing. To this end, Council has commissioned a high level playspace blueprint to guide the provision and location of play opportunities for the foreseeable future.

1.2 Objectives

Given this is the first strategy of its kind for Council, the objective of the strategy is to develop a firm foundation and understanding of play which will:

- Provide a framework of understanding for play to include benefits, theory, and planning for different needs.
- Review the existing supply of playgrounds to include their general condition and purpose to meet the needs of residents and visitors.
- Determine the role of Council in the provision of play.
- Establish a prioritised strategy for development and implementation of playspaces in the coming years.

1.3 Project Parameters

Given that this is the first time Council has developed a strategy specifically for play, it is important to establish a firm foundation of understanding on which to continue to supply and service the needs of children and their carers into the future. The approach has therefore been pragmatic and based on both research and consultation with the broader community and will require further review within a relatively short period of time to ensure strategies and recommendations remain realistic for a relatively small local authority.

Research and frameworks identified and discussed in the following are also based on modern thinking regarding play and can therefore be applied to most Australian communities. This framework of understanding is then applied to the Berri Barmera District and overlaid with an audit and community consultation to assist in determining an appropriate and realistic strategy for Council.

An additional consideration given that this is the first strategy of this nature for Council, and the fact that playspaces have been developed in a relatively ad hoc manner over time, is the fact that little information was available regarding playspace age, condition, and classification. This is discussed in the context of this report and should be noted as being one of the initial parameters for the strategy.

Section Two: Understanding Play

Understanding playspace design and location is crucial to ensure an even and varied distribution of play for different ages.

2.1 The Importance of Play

The vital place of play in children's lives is uncontested. Play is the vehicle through which children experience and interpret the world (Webb-Williams, 2019). Children are born with an innate drive to play. It is a natural instinct which means that children are intrinsically motivated to play. Children not only want to play, but they also need to play. Play is a biological, psychological, and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and well-being of individuals and communities (Play England).

Moreover, play has been recognised as one of the most basic human rights by UNICEF. Article 31 in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (www.unicef.org), to which Australia is a signatory and a ratifying country, states "That every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts¹.

2.2 The Benefits of Play

Research shows that play has many benefits for children, including:

- increasing their self-awareness, self-esteem, and self-respect.
- improving and maintaining their physical and mental health.
- giving them the opportunity to socialise with other children.
- allowing them to increase their confidence through developing new skills.
- promoting their imagination, independence, and creativity •
- offering opportunities for all abilities and backgrounds to play together.
- providing opportunities for developing social skills and learning. •
- building resilience through risk taking and challenge, problem solving, and • dealing with new and novel situations.
- providing opportunities to learn about the environment and wider community.

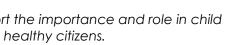
Evidence also supports wider benefits of play to include:

- parents feeling secure knowing their children are happy, safe, and enjoying themselves.
- families benefit from healthier, happier children. •
- play services are frequently seen as a focal point for communities.
- offers opportunities for social interaction for the wider community and supports the development of a greater sense of community spirit and cohesion.
- public outside spaces have an important role in the everyday lives of children and young people, especially as a place for meeting friends.
- parks and other green spaces are popular with adults taking young children • out to play and for older children to spend time together.





Figure 1: Benefits of Play Play benefits are well researched and support the importance and role in child development and their growth as good and healthy citizens.



¹ https://www.slideshare.net/diversityforum2011/unicef-8983172

2.3 Play Theory

It is also widely acknowledged and researched that play has a significant impact on the social, physical, and mental development of the child. Play theory in general identifies three broad categories of play behaviour that apply across all ages but the way they are interpreted by each age group varies with some type of play assuming greater importance at particular stages of child development.

- Cognitive Play includes those activities that challenge the intellect of the child and can include games of strategy, exploration, observation, or those that use and develop language. Council playgrounds can develop cognitive behaviour through natural areas for exploration and observation of living things; spaces and materials for outdoor games such as hopscotch and hide and seek and materials and tools for use in sand and water settings. Other concepts can include spaces for quiet activities such as reading, contemplation and nature observation of complex spaces or structures, which challenge the user's perceptual skills.
- Social Play can be found both by using existing physical equipment and . through learning and exploring with friends in the natural environment. Whilst the latter have not been traditionally provided for in the public domain, councils are beginning to design playspaces through appropriate landscaping including sand, water, plants, trees, and sculptures etc. to enhance natural play. Some small-group activities such as hopscotch, some ball games and the traditional rhyming and running games require small spaces, changes in level, possibly firm surfaces, semi-enclosure, objects as targets and focal points, and durable planting or other elements, which may be used in the course of a game.
- **Physical Play** is also often referred to as aross motor activity and can include • running, hanging, climbing, experiencing height, agility/gymnastic activities, sliding, jumping, balancing, swinging, crawling, bouncing, spinning, rocking, ball games, skipping etc.

These activities are generally more 'active' and therefore adequate space is required in a suitable environment where other users will not be disturbed. Some of these activities are well provided for by traditional play equipment although others are more dependent upon the size and qualities of spaces or other elements.









Figure 2: Examples of Play Theory Top 2: Cognitive play Bottom 2: Social Play Right 2: Physical Play

2.4 Planning for Different Needs

Given the broad categories of play theory, playspaces need to include a number of components to encourage cognitive, social, and physical elements. However, not all playspaces will include all of these as the hierarchy will offer differing play experiences and target different users. That is, playspaces can and should be designed for a number of ages to include:

- Infants (ages 1-3): Simple settings and small scaled and detailed environments with friendly surfaces and a familiar adult close by. These age groups cannot perceive danger and must be protected from hazards. Play areas for young children must be sited away from traffic.
- **Toddlers (ages 3-6):** The ages from three to six years cover a wide range of development in children. Co-ordination and physical skill development is relatively proficient by 5 years and children of this age need to practice and hone skills such as climbing, running, agility, skipping, and ball play.
- Juniors (ages 6-12): Older children may use play equipment as Incidental props in their group games. For example, play structures may be used as part of obstacle courses, part of chasing and hiding games, as a lookout or a refuge; as a meeting and socialising place for after school activities or as a 'base' for group activities.
- Young People (ages 12+): Areas for 'play' for teenagers or 'young people' need to be carefully managed and monitored and in some instance's youth recreation requires a separate study to determine the broader needs of this group. While it is acknowledged young people will use open space for a number of uses including skateboarding, bike riding, unstructured sport or just 'hanging out' with friends etc., the location areas needs to be carefully managed to avoid potential conflicts of use with younger children and their carers while ensuring a sense of ownership by the young people.
- Adults: Adults should not be excluded from using playgrounds, and equipment needs to be designed and developed for use by this group, i.e. the provision of swing seats and rockers designed for use by adults is a way of encouraging adults to use park facilities with their children. Naturally, provision for adults at the exclusion of children is not the intention, but design standards now consider loadings and structural requirements to withstand use by adults.
- Disabilities: An inclusive playspace provides access to a variety of play experiences where everyone can engage and play together. This is not to say that every item of play equipment needs to be fully inclusive, but consideration should be given to access and inclusion in a number of playspaces across a Local Government Authority (LGA).







Figure 3: Planning for Play

It's important to understand the differing needs of various ages and circumstances when designing playspaces as these will change within relatively short periods of time and vary according to ability.

Top left: Infants Middle left: Juniors Bottom left: Adults Top right: Toddlers Middle right: Young People Bottom right: Children with Disabilities.



2.5 The Playspace Development Model

To better understand the hierarchy of playspaces, a 'playspace development model' has been developed that can be adopted when planning and developing playspaces.² The model is widely recognised to illustrate the elementary factors required to establish an area specifically for play and includes five aspects of:

Play Equipment

Play equipment has historically been the dominant factor in playground provision. However, equipment should complement rather than replace the 'playspace' and should align with the intended user and classification of the park. Equipment suitable and interesting to a toddler will be vastly different from equipment for a 'junior child and generally speaking the more opportunities provided tends to increase the 'classification' of the playspace.

Imaginative and Creative Area

This is often the most neglected aspect of play provision, and it requires sensitivity to develop possibilities. Some areas, however, simply need to be left in their natural state whereby others can be designed using the natural environment to encourage exploration and imagination.

Nature play is becoming popular with many councils understanding and realising its importance and investing in such initiatives. In turn this encourages more children into the outdoors and away from some forms of technology that has negative impact on their physical development. As such, playspaces are being designed to encourage the use of the natural environment and to enhance cognitive, social, and physical development.

Unstructured Area

This is an open space area that should not be confused with formal sport requirements and in essence will encourage activities to develop spontaneously among children. Traditionally these areas appeal to older children and are often used as a meeting place/socialising area or for informal ball games such as kick to kick, basketball, netball rings etc.

Adult/Family Area

Adults accompanying children to play areas require a comfortable area where they can passively monitor children whilst socialising with other carers or parents. The inclusion of items such as seating, shading, BBQ's, shelters, water etc., all of which may result in longer periods of use by families and increased presence increasing passive surveillance and safety.

Special Feature

This is an optional component which may be included in the playspace and although these are not essential, could include open air theatres, rotundas, water features, artwork or other natural or built features which would attract greater use, visitation, and general interest. Generally speaking, the more components of the playspace development model a playspace has, the higher its classification. A local playspace for example may be situated on a small block of land and include only a swing and a slide, whereby a regional playspace would generally include all components of the PDM and include bespoke play areas and unique opportunities that would attract visitation from far and wide.



Figure 4: Playspace Development Model

² South Australian Office for Recreation and Sport: Playground Manual Guidelines; March 1998 revised June 2007

2.6 Playspace Classifications

Playspace design is largely reflected in their hierarchy and generally speaking its alignment with the open space on which it sits. This is however not always the case, and smaller local playgrounds are often found on larger classification of land, and whilst this is not always a bad thing, it is important to ensure and even distribution of opportunity across a municipality and avoid the 'cookie cutter' approach to provision.

Higher level playspaces generally mean more components by way of equipment and complementary design elements. Whilst not prescriptive, the following provides an overview and the common elements within each.

2.6.1 Local Playspace

This level of playspace is ideally located within a collector district area whereby walking to a destination up to 500 metres would be acceptable for most if not all ages and abilities. Local playspace primarily cater for younger children's needs (toddlers and juniors) and may also be used incidentally i.e. en-route to or from a destination such as shops, schools, or from public transport and in some instances as physical links to other open space systems. Alternatively, such playspaces may be used deliberately as a need for low impact play and exploration for young children under the guidance of adult supervision.

Components

While playspaces in a local setting will primarily be targeted at younger children (1-6) due to the proximity to the home and the understanding that older children (6-12) can and may travel greater distances either on foot or bike with their parents or carers; play opportunities should include aspects of cognitive, social, and physical play and include approximately 3-5 pieces of play equipment as a suggestion. However, not all local playspaces need to comprise formal play equipment areas and could include an imaginative (natural) play area to ensure provision is complemented and not duplicated within short distances of each playspace i.e., each should (where possible) offer its own setting with a different set of opportunities from the parks nearby. It is such that local playspaces include complementary components of:

- Play Equipment Area (3-5 pieces)
- Imaginative Creative Area (natural settings)

It must be noted that not all Local play spaces would include both of the above, but these elements developed in conjunction with similar parks nearby, i.e. planning should ensure playspaces are complemented and not duplicated within a close proximity to each other. Specific areas set aside for adults are not necessarily developed in local playspaces due to the age of the child requiring constant surveillance by the carer. However, playspaces and seating should have natural or formalised shading with the latter situated to ensure both active and passive surveillance by carers.

2.6.2 Neighbourhood Playspace

Neighbourhood playspaces consider broader 'suburbs' and thus the need to provide for a more diverse range of opportunities and offer a wider range of opportunity for children primarily in the 4-12 age groups (infants and juniors) but should also include equipment for toddlers. When discussing neighbourhood playspaces, it is assumed that:

- People will travel further to use the park and therefore tend to do so deliberately rather than incidentally.
- Generally located within each suburb and therefore facilities such as toilets may not be required.
- Would be no more than approximately 1-2 kilometres from homes.

Components

Neighbourhood playspaces are designed to cater for the needs of more than one user group, and for more than one type of activity. Toddler, junior and senior play areas will be provided and sited around a picnic areas/shelters and tables. Neighbourhood playspaces might be set along an urban waterway or natural settings and key components can therefore include:

- Play Equipment Area (5 pieces +) for age groups 1-12 in secured areas and where possible away from main roads and
- Imaginative Creative Area (natural settings)
- Non-Structured Play Area
- Adult / Carer Area
- Bins

2.6.3 District Playspace

The third level in the hierarchy is the District Playspace. District Parks tend to serve wider catchments and are sited where special features (natural or manmade) such as a water body, a cluster of sporting facilities, civic areas, or historic site are located. In discussing this classification, it is assumed that visitors are offered greater recreation opportunities and therefore stay longer at the 'park'. As such, amenities such as water, car parking, toilets, barbecues, and rubbish bins etc may all be warranted.

Other key aspects of District playspaces include a safe (normally fenced) play area for young children and areas where parents and carers can meet and socialise in a safe environment. Children's birthday parties are common occurrences in such parks and parents can prepare barbecues in areas with good surveillance of play equipment which has an additional safeguard to prevent children from leaving the playspace.

District level open space can also be used for specific activities such as youth recreation, sporting facilities, dog parks or adult exercise areas whereby the land parcel is designed to be used for a number of 'specific' activities normally identified in a separate recreation, leisure, or open space strategy.

Components

When discussing the playspace component of District level parks, it is assumed that the following components would be provided:

- Play Equipment Area for all age groups (often fenced or secured in areas of high safety concern such as main roads)
- Imaginative Creative Area (natural settings)
- Non-Structured Play Area
- Adult / Carer Area

2.6.4 Regional Playspaces

Regional playspaces are similar to the district classification but with additional components that would attract both local and regional visitors. This may be in the form of an adventure playground, water park, or unique aspect such as additional space for larger community events such as carnivals and concerts.

Regional playspaces are often well landscaped and/or use the natural landscape to offer a unique experience and are often bespoke in design and aligned with a theme or an array of experiences and opportunities for the whole family.

2.7 Additional Design Elements

While the highlighted playspace classifications align themselves with the Playspace Development Model, this does not consider other design concepts which should and could be included within all playspaces and parks. These will obviously vary from classification to classification and in some instances park to park but could include some or all of the following additional design elements which have been referenced from a number of industry sources.

Shade

Shade, particularly during the hotter summer months is vital. Natural shade through trees is highly desirable but due to the time it takes for growth in 'new' playspaces, built shade in the form of pergolas or shelters may be appropriate. Should natural shading be available, tree management and maintenance need to be considered due to the potential falling limbs and branches.

Fencing

Fencing is highly desirable in areas where adults use open space with children, especially for children's parties, barbecues, and social gatherings. While fencing should not be a complete safeguard to children's safety and the ultimate onus on the parent or carer, fences do provide an additional safeguard in relation to forming a barrier between the child and physical dangers such as main roads, major waterways, or steep embankments in natural settings. Paths

Paths within playspaces and parks should be sited carefully to minimise their impact upon other uses of a park. For example, two paths criss-crossing a reserve will break it into four small spaces which may each be too small to be useful.

Busy paths, especially cycle paths, may intrude upon quiet spaces and disturb users. Paths open up otherwise inaccessible places, and the desirability of a path cutting through an area must first be carefully assessed. All path surfaces should be selected to blend visually into the surrounds. Path systems need to be considered for at least two purposes:

'Functional' paths

These have a main purpose of efficient circulation of people between two or more points. Such paths may have 'functional' convenience as their primary purpose, but the pleasure of users and the visual and functional impact on the landscape is important.

Paths also need to be well sited to ensure users are not forced out of their way and sometimes it may be valuable for Council to monitor patterns of use ('desire lines') before constructing a 'formal' route.

Recreational paths

These are not necessarily the quickest way between points but may be sited to pass through attractive or interesting areas, simply for the pleasure of the journey. They may be intended for walking or cycling, and the surfaces should be considered for their contribution to the recreation experiences of users.

For example, rough or bumpy dirt paths are increasingly rare in the suburban landscape, but children derive great pleasure from walking or riding along such paths, especially if they pass through varied terrain, over puddles, bridges, and other features, and at times pass through overhanging vegetation or long grass. These opportunities are important as part of the recreation spectrum but should not be confused with the need to provide convenient access ways through the neighbourhoods.

Softfall

Kidsafe has developed a series of information sheets pertaining to play design and management one of which pertains specifically to softfall. All playground equipment with a fall height 600mm or more must have an 'impact attenuating' surface beneath to minimise serious head or other injuries in the event of falls.

Whilst no one material has proven to be the best product for impact attenuating surfacing, consideration of factors such as environmental conditions, cost and personal preference may be applied when selecting a material. The two main types of playgrounds surfacing products are loose fill and solid materials.

Loose Fill

Loose fill includes products such as bark mulch, wood chips, wood fibre, rubber mulch, grape seed and sand and these products are generally less expensive than solid materials upon installation but require regular maintenance and top ups. Considering the cost of ongoing maintenance, solid materials may compare favourably over the lifespan of the surfacing.

Solid Fill

Solid materials include products such as synthetic grass, rubber tiles and wet pour rubber. The impact attenuating qualities of solid materials varies according to the thickness of the layer and the composition of the material. Solid materials can work well in combination with loose fill products providing a fixed surface beneath heavy traffic areas such as under swings and at the run-out (base) of slides. This reduces both the ongoing costs and labour to replenish the loose fill, as required.

Whilst some studies support loose fill over solid with regards to safety when falling from height, the aesthetics of solid over loose combined with a perception of foreign objects finding their way into loose fill softfall, has led to an increased demand from the community to construct more playspaces with solid fill.

As stated however, there is no one answer for this and each playspace must be considered in isolation, but the more natural areas such as local playspaces and potentially components of nature play in larger developments may not warrant the cost or design impact of solid fill. Each will be unique and ultimately the choice of Council must be put down to a number of factors to include budget, aesthetics, playspaces type and ultimately and foremost, safety and adhering to national standards.

Nature Play

Nature play is making a resurgence as local authorities are recognising the importance of promoting play and offering children an opportunity to learn and grow through interaction with their natural environments. Traditionally this has been difficult for some councils to embrace given the 'lack of standards for 'nature', but increasingly many are now introducing natural areas into playground designs to encourage cognitive, social, and physical development of the child.

Many good examples are now emerging across Australia whereby the use of the landscape is enhanced to create natural areas such as creek beds, sand pits, tree logs and areas for exploration. Normally these are included in higher level playspace developments, but consideration should be given to lower, less welldeveloped areas and the notion that a child will play where equipment is not present and therefore a local open space that is well designed and managed, can in itself be an excellent opportunity to promote and develop nature play.

Barbeaues

Generally, barbeques are not considered appropriate for local playspaces, but they may be considered for higher levels if warranted through demand and certainly regional parks if the conditions are suitable. However, the installation of barbeques often requires an associated level of facility provision (tables, toilets, water, shelter, lighting, electricity supply, car parking etc.) and a commitment to maintenance and therefore it is recommended that these be kept to a minimum and supplied only in District or higher-level parks.

Seating and Tables

Seating is an important way of encouraging adults to accompany their children to play, as well as providing for the elderly and others. Seating should be available in winter sun and under summer shade. More than one configuration of seating is valuable, to cater for more than one group at a time and to facilitate either solitude or interaction, depending upon the users wishes, a variety of styles of seating is important to include:

- Formal seats with back and arm rests are valued by many older people.
- Caregivers need to be able to sit close to playing children and

 Edges to 'perch' on and to adapt to more than one purpose (such as walking and balancing on, as a table for sand play, as a marker or boundary in games etc) will be valued by both children and teenagers.

Picnic tables are not always necessary in a reserve and are recommended to be developed only in Neighbourhood playgrounds or higher classifications. They may however be useful if sited so adults can supervise children while seated and the shape and orientation considered both for the comfort of users and for ease of supervision. Hexagonal or octagonal shaped tables allow parents to change their position and to monitor children in any direction.

Ancillary Services

As with toilets, ancillary services such as, water, bike racks and formalised car parking for example, may all be considered important in destinations where people travel further to and therefore tend to stay longer.

2.8 Fitness Equipment

Given the burgeoning obesity epidemic and inactivity crises associated with many western nations, one intervention strategy employed by many governments are fitness stations and equipment often located along linear parks or foreshores. Whilst often manufactured by playground companies, the equipment is targeted at adults but often used by children for play. Whilst this is recognised, the installation of these pieces of equipment should be a separate study and one associated with general health, physical activity and targeted strategies for inactivity and not directly associated with play.

2.9 Water Play

Whilst terminology may vary, there are generally 9 levels or 'types' of water parks or water play areas that have been developed across Australia³, with these being:

- 1. Natural settings
- 2. Splashpads
- 3. Water playaround
- 4. Water play with natural features
- 5. Temporary waterparks
- 6. Aquativity parks
- 7. Waterslide parks
- 8. Lagoons
- 9. Water theme park

As with fitness equipment, albeit on a much larger and generally more expensive scale, water parks warrant a separate study, but components can be included in larger playspaces to offer unique design aspect and attraction. These would normally be considered as the 'special feature' aspect of a playspace of district or higher, or indeed become a stand alone feature of a playspace itself.

³ One Eighty SLS; Logan City Council QLD; Water Park Feasibility; Investigation of Options June 2017

2.10 Playspace Trends

Play and understanding its importance has developed considerably in recent years with many local authorities now developing strategies that not only assess playspaces as assets that need to be managed, but also their relevance in design and the changing needs of a child as they grow and develop. To this end, the traditional playspace equipment by way of slide, swings, and rockers whilst still important, are considered as only one component of the play spectrum. Other design elements are therefore being introduced to encourage an array of learning and development opportunities including the use of the natural environment (nature play), creative landscaping, and additional features that promote a sense of belonging and place to a park.

Playspaces are also considered not only as areas for children, but also the whole family and therefore now include aspects for adults and carers such as barbeques, shade and shelter and end of trip facilities such as water, bike racks, paths and trails, carparks and in some instances fencing to offer a sense of security when located near to main roads, traffic, waterways or when dogs may be present in open space areas.

Play standards have also come a long way with equipment now designed and developed to include and consider adult use and weight bearing to enable social interaction and play with and between children. Additionally, the introduction of fitness equipment is also becoming increasingly popular and offers a unique element to many parks and playspaces. They are often standalone areas separate from children's playspaces.

Liability and risk are always key factors in the provision of any service or facility that is available to the public, and whilst Council has an obligation and duty of care, aspects such as the promotion of nature play has caused some concern in recent years due to the absence of standards for 'nature'. Play Australia have developed a management guide that aims to balance risk with encouraging play and should be referred to as a source of reference for this design principle⁴.

2.11 Playspace Planning

When planning for play, the notion of playspaces being developed in areas where young families are prevalent is an outdated method as the needs of a child (and demographics generally) will change in relative short periods of time (2-3 years) whereas a playspace as an asset may last more than twenty years. Playspace planning is therefore similar to open space planning whereby a provision or even distribution to ensure access for all including older adults, aunties and uncles, people with disabilities and carers and families is considered.

Like open space, playspaces can therefore be planned according 'catchments', or 'Pedsheds' with the former being a centre point distance (radius) outward from a point, whereas the latter relates to the walking time to or from the point.⁵

Ped sheds are often defined as the area covered by a 5–10-minute walk as we would comfortably walk this distance every day and are the basic building blocks for walkable cities and generally considered in all urban planning exercises.

The measurement of time however does have limitations in that not all people can walk the same distance in the same time. A healthy person would normally walk 1km in 10-15 minutes, yet for an older adult or a person with a disability for example, this would take much longer. For the purpose of play therefore, the 400-500m radius catchment is recommended and should be the starting point for assessing gaps or areas of over supply within a community.

2.12 Benchmarking and Provision

Whilst there is no one universally agreed standard for the provision of playspaces, previous studies undertaken by One Eighty SLS have established that:

- An industry benchmark for the overall provision of playspaces is 1 for every 1500 residents.⁶
- The benchmark for more rural and regional communities may be less and account for 1 in 1000.
- An average ratio of approximately 1 playspace for every 500 children (0-14) is considered a good benchmark nationally, but this may again be less for regional communities.
- Young people over the age of 14-year-olds are planned for separately due to their specific needs. It is also essential to ensure a targeted consultation strategy with this group to ensure they are included, and their needs met.
- A 500m catchment is considered a good benchmark for access.

⁶ Parks and Leisure Australia (WA Region) Community Facility Guidelines (Draft 2019)

⁴ Play Australia and Cummins E; Getting the Balance Right 2015

⁵ Place Changers UK https://www.placechangers.co.uk/blog/urban-design/what-is-aped-shed/

Section Three: State of Play

3.1 Demographics

To assist in determining a level of supply for the district, we must first understand what the community looks like with regards to its profile. Council is divided into the main townships of Berri and Barmera, and several smaller communities (Fig 5) including:

- Cobdogla
- Glossop
- Loveday
- Monash
- Overland Corner and
- Winkie.

The following has been extracted from the 2021 Census⁷ and concludes:

- A total population of approximately 10,551 broken down into 49.7 male and 50.3% female.
- A much higher indigenous population at 5.1% compared with a state average of 2.4%
- A median age of 46 compared with a South Australian 41 years.
- A total of 1734 children aged between the ages of 0-14 accounting for 15.9% of the community which is slightly lower that the Murraylands and Riverlands Region which is 16.1%
- In order of population size, Berri is the largest district with 4143 people followed by Barmera with 2884. Monash is the third largest community with 1124 people, followed by Glossop at 984, Loveday at 655, Cobdogla at 375, Winkie 336, and Overland Corner at just 50 residents.

3.2 Current Supply

Council currently has 15 playspaces (Figure 6) which for the purpose of this report are described as manufactured equipment primarily targeting the 0-14 age group to include aspects such as slides, rockers, swings, climbing frames and bespoke equipment designed for children's play.

'Additional' play components may add to the overall experience of a playspace as previously discussed in the playspace development model, and in some cases are located adjacent or near to playspaces to include infrastructure such as half-court basketball areas, skate parks, hitting walls or bike tracks and trails etc.

The 15 playspaces account for a supply ratio of 1 playspace for every 703 residents or 1 for every 116 children aged 0-14 as identified in Table 1 on the following pages. Both are higher (better) than the benchmark of 1 in 1000 residents for regional communities and 1 in 500 for 0–14-year-olds, but the challenge is to understand supply and distribution across the LGA, as well as ensuring differing opportunities and experiences are available for different age groups.

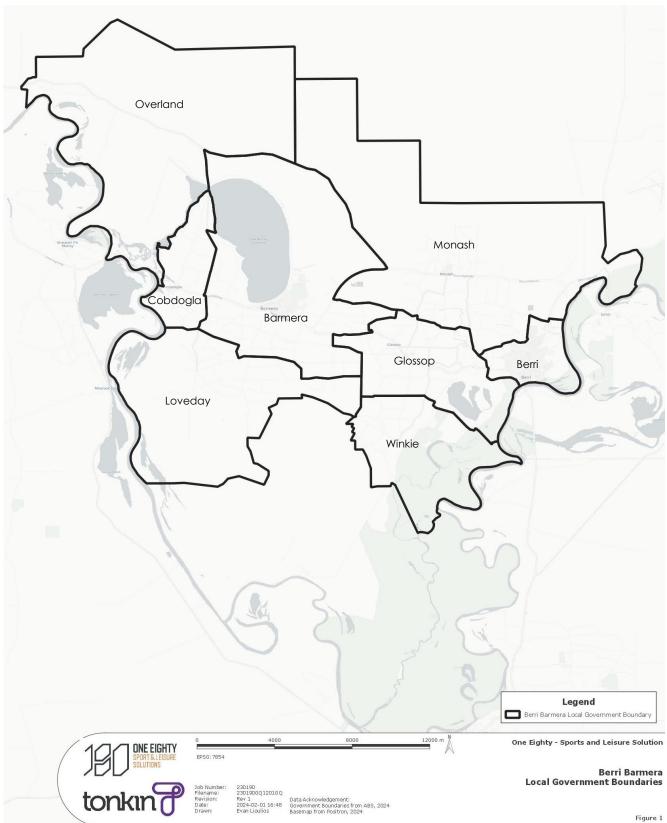
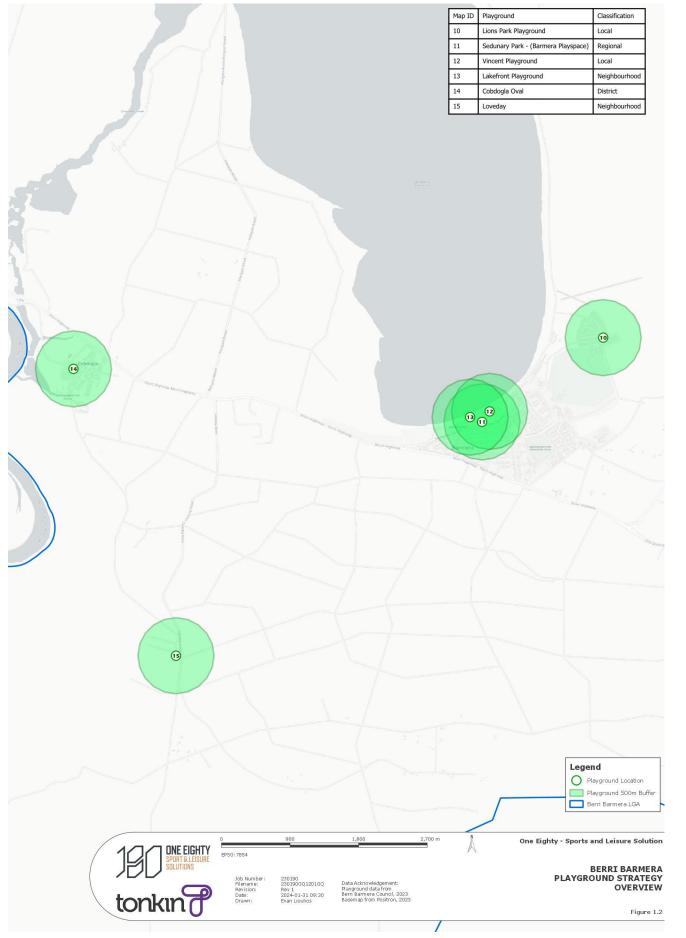
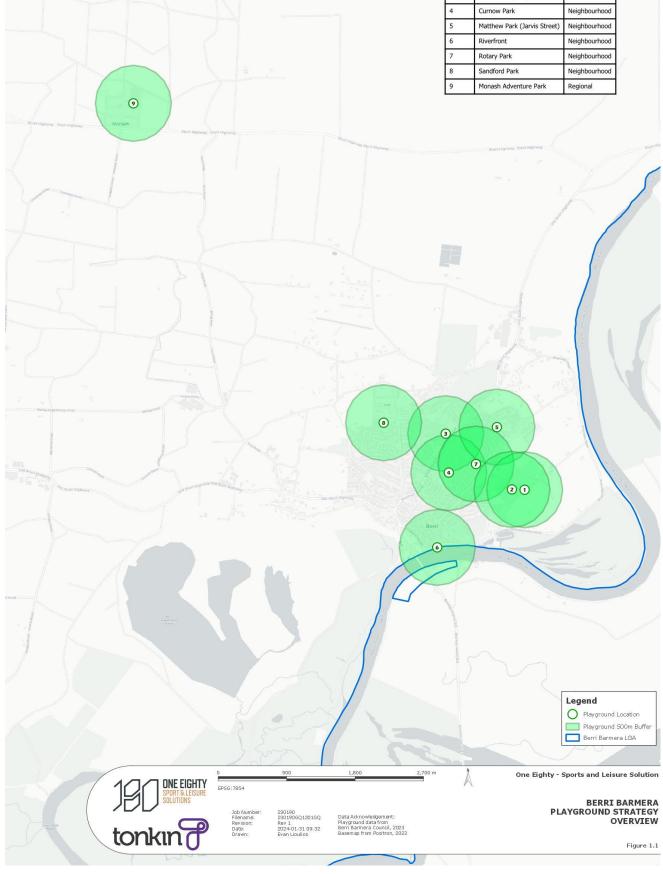


Figure 5: District Map

⁷ https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA40520







Map ID	Playground	Classification
1	Alan Glassy East	Local
2	Alan Glassy West	Local
3	Colin Jennings Apex Park	District
4	Curnow Park	Neighbourhood
5	Matthew Park (Jarvis Street)	Neighbourhood
6	Riverfront	Neighbourhood
7	Rotary Park	Neighbourhood
8	Sandford Park	Neighbourhood
9	Monash Adventure Park	Regional

3.3 Provision Analyses

Given the current supply and the understanding that the majority of playspaces are in the townships of Berri and Barmera, a key consideration for Council is when to provide a playspace for a community particularly in the more rural or regional areas where population numbers are low. Whilst there is no one answer to this as quite often the expressed demand from a community may lead to the development of a playspace; an understanding or 'policy' (intent) may be developed which considers the 'tipping point' when a playspace should or could be developed.

The 'tipping point' for provision of playspaces in small communities, is recommended being 1/500 residents. This is based on when a playspace should be developed and supersedes the 1/1000 which is applied as and when the community grows. That is, no further playspaces would be warranted until the 2000 population number is reached when one more would be required.

Table 1 shows the current supply ratio across the eight townships and highlights:

- Given the size of the community and using the provision benchmark of 1 playspace per 1000 people, 10.55 playspaces are warranted across the district.
- The district is therefore over supplied by 4 (4.45) playspaces or 3 (3.47) for the 0-14 age group.
- Berri is oversupplied by 4 playspaces (4.14) and Barmera by 3 (2.88)
- A playspace is warranted in Glossop.

					_		Provision B	Benchmark
	2021 Census			2021 Census			1000	500
District	Population	Playspaces	Playspaces per Pop.	Population 0-14	Playspaces per 0-14	Required Playspaces	Total Pop Gap	Total 0-14 Gap
Berri	4,143	8	518	659	82	4.14	3.86	1.32
Barmera	2,884	4	721	438	110	2.88	1.12	0.88
Cobdogla	375	1	375	59	59	0.38	0.63	0.12
Glossop	984	0	0	199	0	0.98	-0.98	0.40
Loveday	655	1	655	131	131	0.66	0.35	0.26
Monash	1,124	1	1124	184	184	1.12	-0.12	0.37
Overland Corner	50	0	0	12	0	0.05	-0.05	0.02
Winkie	336	0	0	52	0	0.34	-0.34	0.10
Total	10,551	15	703	1,734	116	10.55	4.45	3.47

 Table 1: Playspace Supply Demand Ratio

3.4 Audit

An assessment of the 15 playspaces was undertaken to determine the current condition and classifications of playspaces across the district with Figure 5 highlighting the latter. Management of any asset, whether this be play or other, is of course crucial as not only will it assist Council in delivering appropriate opportunities for its community, but it will also ensure they remain safe and provide a strategic rather than reactive process to systematically manage and budget for future provision. However, given the lack of available data on assets/play equipment, a subjective assessment was made regarding the overall condition as outlined in Table 2, with findings highlighted in Table 3.

Кеу	Descript	ion	
# Site Playspace	Map refere Berri	ence number Barmera	r, name, ar Monash
Condition	Scored ac as follows:	cording to a	subjective
1	Very Poor	(likely over 20) years)
2	Poor (likely	/ 15-20 years)	
3	Fair (likely	10-15 years)	
4	Good (like	ly 5-10 years)	
5	Excellent (likely to be ur	nder 5 year
Current Classification	L = Local N = Neighl D = District R = Regior		(target 0- (target 0- (target al (target al

Table 2: Audit Key

nd location colour	coded as follows:
Cobdogla	Loveday
overall assessmen	t of play equipment
rs)	
-6) -14) Il ages plus some c Il ages plus all aspe	aspects of the PSDM) ects of the PSDM)

Table 3: Audit Findings

#	Site		Co	onditi	ion		CI		rent icatio	on	Photo	
Pla	yspace	1	2	3	4	5	L	Ν	D	R		
1	Alan Glassey Park East Chilton Road Berri											Small local playspace Caters predominantly t shade. Due to its settin playscape to be devel Softfall: Sand Based
2	Alan Glassey West Chilton Road Berri											As per the east playspo and newer slide. Softfall: Sand Based
3	Colin Jennings Apex Park Worman Street Berri											Apex Park is a large (a features including a sm with a hitting wall, bask natural areas, and an itself is potentially too s enhanced. Softfall: Bark Chip
4	Curnow Park Sprigg Street Berri											Located on a pocket p this is a small and old lo equipment being 29 ye Softfall: Sand Based

Comment

e located in the regional sporting precinct. / for younger children with some natural ing, there is potential for a larger eloped.

pace, this is a similar but with an old swing

approx. 2ha) site that includes many small playground which is accompanied asketball and tennis court, BMX track, n adjacent dog park. The playground o small for the site and could be

park surrounded by a residential road, local playspace with evidence of years of age (1995 construction)

 Table 3:
 Audit Findings

#	Site		Co	onditi	ion		CI	Curi assifi	rent icatio	on	Photo	
Play	yspace	1	2	3	4	5	L	Ν	D	R		
5	Matthews Park Jarvis Street Berri											A relatively land locked of residential dwellings, thoroughfare and looks and provides limited pl frame and comet roun Softfall: Bark Chip
6	Riverfront Riverview Drive Berri											A small neighbourhood to 1995, the area is fen provides natural shade Softfall: Bark Chip
7	Rotary Park Manifold Crescent Berri											A larger neighbourhoo interface, the playspac 0.8ha) with plenty of op footpaths, artwork, and equipment suggests it v Softfall: Sand Based
8	Sandford Park Hobbs Street Berri											Located on a large (1. open to the elements. 1996 construction mak The site has potential to Softfall: Sand Based

Comment

ed park surrounded on all sides by the rear ys, the playspace is located on a oks to have been installed around 2010 play opportunity with swings, climbing undabout.

od playspace with old equipment dating nced due to its location to the river and le.

od / district park surrounded by residential ace is located on a large reserve (approx. open space, cricket nets, shelters, nd natural shade. Evidence on some t was constructed in 2006.

I.5ha) reserve, the playspace is old and a. Evidence on equipment suggests a king the playspace over 25 years in age. to be developed as a district playspace.

Table 3: Audit Findings

#	Site		Co	ondit	ion		C	Cur assifi	rent icatio	on_	Photo	
Pla	yspace	1	2	3	4	5	L	Ν	D	R	FIIOIO	
9	Monash Adventure Park Madison Avenue Monash											One of the States iconic across the region and c development model ind bespoke equipment. So of removal/replacement Softfall: Predominantly and sand
10	Lions Park Garrard St Barmera											Located on the outskirt: on a corner block of lar suitable for young child Softfall: Sand Based
11	Barmera Playspace Whitmore Avenue Barmera											A newly constructed re footpaths, shelters, BBQ opportunities for childre Softfall: Predominantly
12	Vincent Dean Drive Barmera											Located adjacent to th local in nature with som old and would suggest Softfall: Sand Based

Co	100	100		
$\mathbf{C}\mathbf{U}$			C I	

nic playgrounds, Monash is visited from d offers every aspect of the playspace including kiosk, water features and Some equipment is ageing and in need tent.

ly solid rubber with some loose fill bark

irts of Barmera the playspace is located land with minimal ageing equipment ildren.

regional area with bespoke equipment, Q's, open space, and unstructured Iren of all ages.

ly loose fill bark and sand

the Memorial Oval, this small playspace is ome natural shade. The equipment looks st being over 20 years of age.

Table 3: Audit Findings

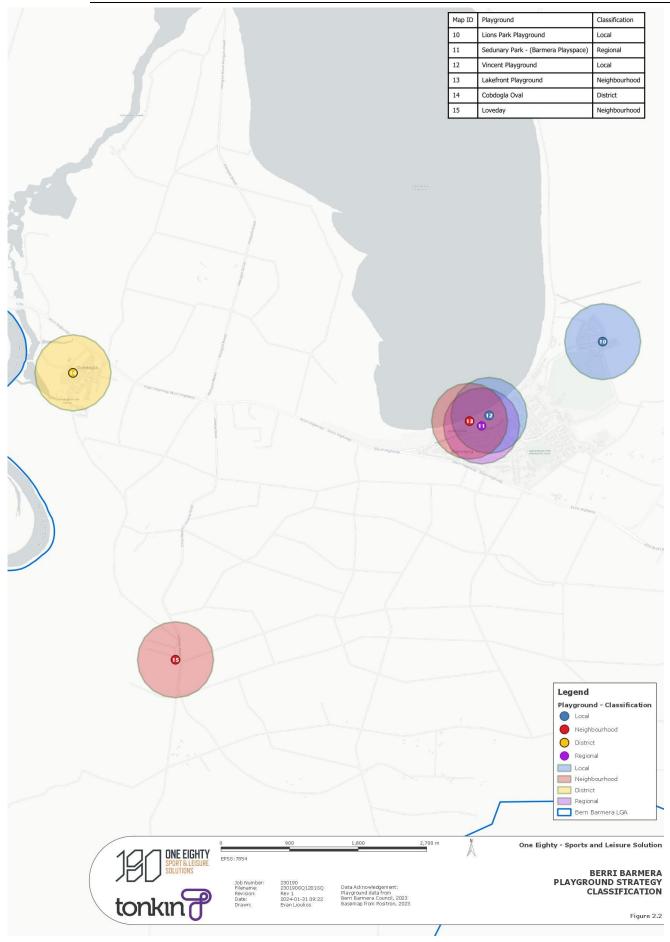
#	Site		Сс	ondit	ion		C		rent icatio	on	Photo	
Pla	yspace	1	2	3	4	5	L	Ν	D	R		
13	Lakefront Dean Drive Barmera											A mix of older and mid playspace which given suggested as this being Softfall: Sand Based
14	Cobdogla Park Terrace Cobdogla											An older large playspace classification, the playg the main sports precinc be well in excess of 20 y Softfall: Sand Based
15	Loveday Morris Street Loveday											An older but well-maint neighbourhood in natu facilities and a basketb for this to be district or h Softfall: Sand Based

	<u> </u>
nment	\mathbf{C}
	$\mathbf{c}\mathbf{c}$
	00

d age range equipment, this is a local en its proximity the Barmera playspace, is ng surplus to requirement.

ace with potential neighbourhood/district yground is sheltered and well located on nct in the township. The equipment would O years of age.

Intained open space, the playspace is ture and offers toilets, shelters, BBQ tball ring and unstructured area. Potential r high neighbourhood.



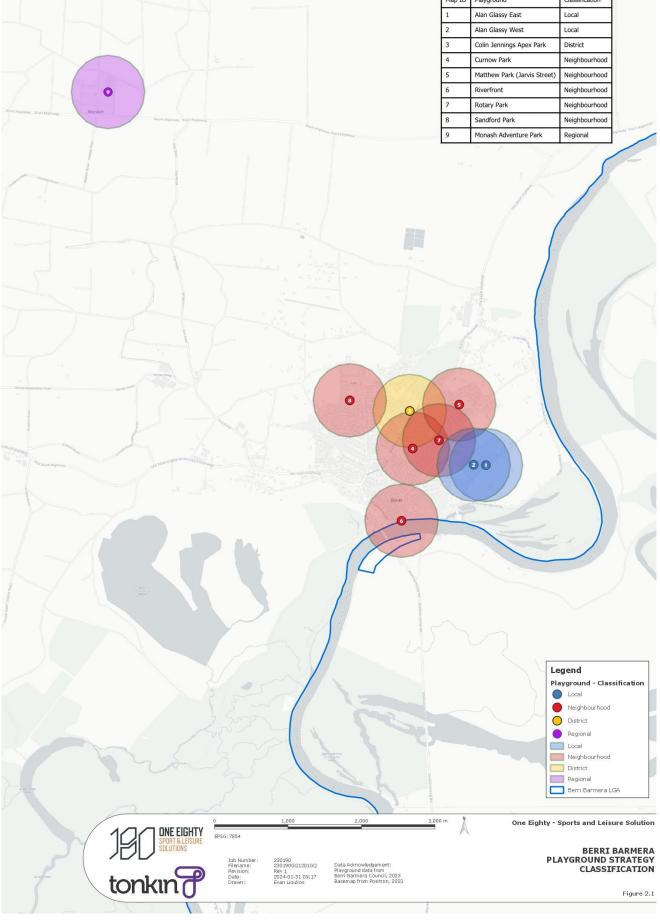


Figure 5: Play Classifications

Map ID	Playground	Classification
1	Alan Glassy East	Local
2	Alan Glassy West	Local
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8	Sandford Park	Neighbourhood
9	Monash Adventure Park	Regional

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3.5 Observations

The following are initial observations regarding play across the district and include a subjective assessment by the consultants.

Fitness Stations

Whilst outside the scope of this report, Council also has two geographic areas with fitness equipment. These are located along the waters edge of the riverfront in Berri, and the Lake Bonney in Barmera. These areas warrant a separate study or approach to their provision and should not be grouped with play.

Supply

As highlighted in Figure 4, there are areas of over and undersupply throughout the district when considering the 400m catchment. Berri has a high concentration of playspaces that are oversupplied particularly in Glassy Park which due to its regional significance, may benefit from at least 1 district rather than 2 local playspaces. There are also gaps in the southern area of Berri adjacent to the caravan park and Memorial Ovals 1 and 2, which given their district level open space classification, would also warrant a playspace, as would the west and northwestern areas of the town which also have obvious gaps.

The concentration of three playspaces in Barmera may also be an oversupply particularly given the recently constructed Barmera playspace. A recommendation to remove the smaller lakefront playspace and focus on the quality of the remaining playspaces, may therefore be warranted.

Classifications

Except for Monash and the recently installed Barmera playspace which are bespoke and regional in nature, the majority of playspaces are neighbourhood classification which stems from 'off the shelf' installations being the norm and the traditional slide, swing, climbing frame, and rockers being provided for the 0-12 age group. This means that there is little by way of variety and consideration needs to be given to ensuring this is addressed as and when playspaces are renewed.

Age

Its evident that the majority of playspaces are nearing if not at their useable asset lives with 11 or 73% being over 15 years and many more than 20 years. Whilst this is a challenge, it should also be seen as an opportunity to take stock of play assets and ensure that an even distribution of play with a wide range of opportunity is planned for and provided in the coming years.

Softfall

The vast majority of playspaces are either sand based or loose bark chip softfall, which whilst within standard, is not ideal for several reasons namely, heavy underfoot when wet (sand) making access extremely challenging especially for older adults; safety concerns and not knowing what foreign objects may be in the fill, and general maintenance and upkeep of loos fill falling outside of the play areas. Modern playspaces such as Barmera and Monash have a mix of softfall, and this should be encouraged for play spaces of neighbourhood and higher classifications.

Identity

Playspaces generally lack an identity and are often referred to as a street name and very often this is conflicting depending on who is referring to the space. There is an opportunity to ensure a consistent name for all playspaces, as well as introducing themes that tie in with the local heritage, history, and unique setting of the district, whilst also considering wayfinding opportunities to and within parks and playgrounds.

Figure 6: Play Classifications

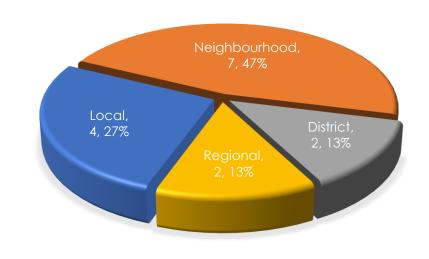
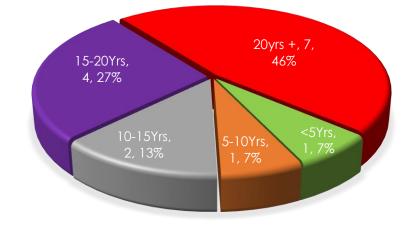


Figure 7: Playspace Ages



Section Four: Community Perceptions

A survey was made available to the broader community to provide feedback in relation to their use and thoughts of playspaces across the district. A total of 60 responses were received, with the following being a summary of findings and feedback.

4.1 Playspace Use

Respondents used playspaces relatively frequently with 20% (12) stating more than weekly and 28% (17) weekly. 31% (19) stated they used playspaces more than once a month, with 20% (12) stating that they hardly used playspaces at all.

Most children used playspaces with the parents or grandparents with the small number of others being aunties, siblings, and community leaders. Just over a quarter of were aged 0-3, but the majority or 61% were between the ages of 3-12. As highlighted previously, children over the ages of 12 tend to drop off using playspaces with only 15% being over this age using playspaces with adults. Figure 9: Attend Playsopaces with Children as..

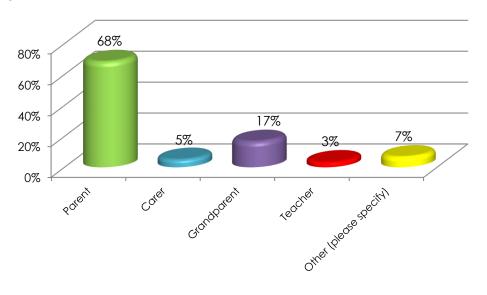


Figure 8: How Often Do You Use Playspaces?

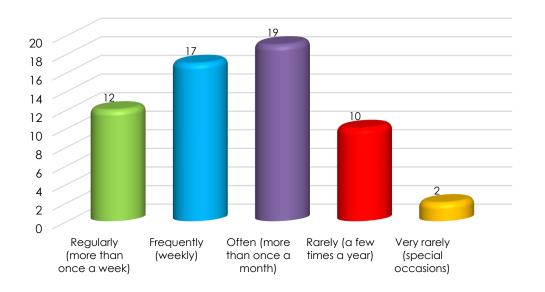
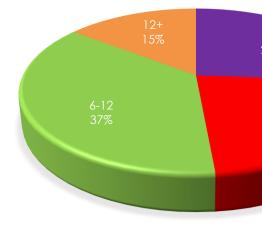


Figure 10: Age Ranges of Children





4.2 Playspace Perceptions

When asked to rank on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being low and 5 high, elements that were important for playspaces compared with what was being delivered or perceived across the district, the top areas of perceived importance of priority that scored over 4 were:

- 1. clean and welcoming (4.72)
- 2. safe (4.62)
- 3. have a variety of equipment (4.42)
- 4. have toilets nearby (4.38)
- 5. opportunities for informal play and opportunities for older children (4.18)
- 6. plenty of shade (4.15)
- 7. opportunities for younger children (4.08)

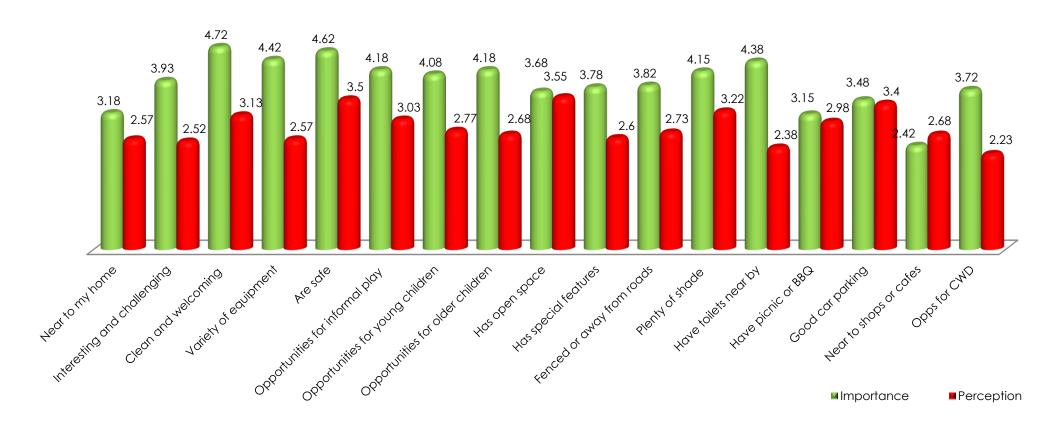
The largest areas of concern whereby the gap between importance and perception was 1.5 points is seen in Table 4. The areas the community consider playspace needs being relatively met, or a gap of less than 1 point, can be seen in Table 5, with only near to shops or cafes considered to be exceeding the community's needs.

Figure 11: Importance versus Perception of Playspaces

Rank	Area of Concern	Gap					
1	Toilets nearby	-2.0					
2	Having a variety of equipment	-1.85					
3	Clean and welcoming	-1.59					
4	Opportunities for older children	-1.5					
5	Opportunities for children with disabilities	-1.49					
Table	Table 4: Main Perceived Gaps in Provision						

Rank	Areas of Need Being Met	Gap
1	Near to shops or cafes	+0.26
2	Good carparking	- 0.08
3	Has good open space	- 0.13
4	Has picnic or BBQ facilities	- 0.17
5	Near to my home	- 0.61
6	Plenty of shade	- 0.93

Table 5: Perceived Areas Being Catered For



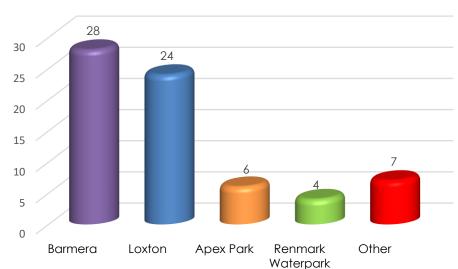
4.3 Favourite Playspaces

When asked which were their favourite playspaces outside of Monash, the Barmera playspace was ranked highly with only Apex Park ranking amongst the playspaces in the district. Loxton playspace and the waterpark at the Big 4 caravan park in Renmark were rankled highest. The 'others' included:

- Waikerie
- Renmark football oval •
- Renmark library •
- Adelaide nature play parks
- Glassey Park •
- Berri Riverfront and
- Berri skate park •

The reasons for visiting these playspaces included largely the variety of equipment followed by the setting and having toilets and amenities close by. Having something different (special feature) and being safe and clean also ranked highly.

Figure 12: Other Favourite Playspaces



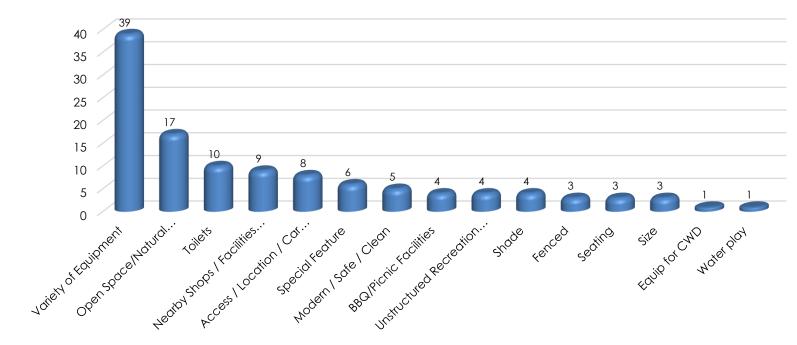
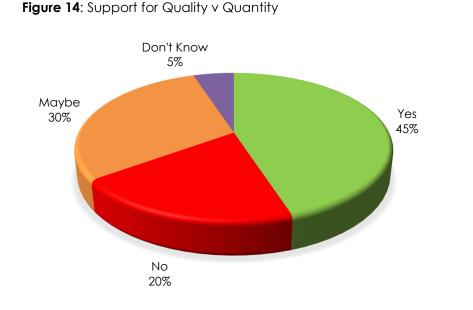


Figure 13: Benefits of Other Playgrounds

4.4 Quality over Quantity of Playspaces

A question was posed regarding the quality over quantity of playspaces and whether there would be an appetite for the consolidation across the district. Most respondents said yes (45%) with a further 30% stating maybe. Only 20% stated no and a further 5% that didn't know. This would support the notion that residents tend to want better fewer but playspaces.



4.5 Respondent Profile

The vast majority of respondents were female aged 35-49 at 46%, with an additional 30% in the 19-34 age profile which would suggest an interest from mothers of children using playspaces across the district. Adults over 50 were predominantly grandparents of children.

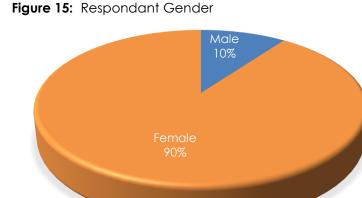
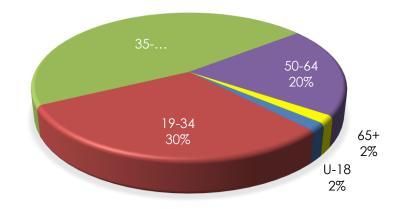


Figure 16: Respondant Age Group



4.6 Additional Comments

Respondents were invited to provide any additional comments or feedback in relation to play across the district with the following being a summary of the more common comments received:

- More and different equipment and variety across the district
- Better maintained equipment
- More indoor cafe playspaces •
- More for young people over 12 •
- Equipment that is accessible
- A better facility in Berri
- More amenites such as toilets •
- Safer playspaces away from dogs and roads •
- Playspaces near sports grunds
- Water play areas



Section Five: The Strategic Response

Given that this is the first strategy of its kind for Council, it is important to set a realistic and pragmatic response which will address the identified issues, challenges, and opportunities identified in this report. It is also important to ensure Council can respond in a manner that is within its resources and a staged and prioritised strategy developed for the provision and management of playspaces across the district for the next 10 years.

5.1 A Vision for Play

Council now has a basis of understanding for play and sees playspaces as valuable assets for the community. It also recognises its role and will strive to ensure an equitable and diverse range of experiences and opportunities are provided across the district and has a vision for play that states:

The Berri Barmera Council understands the importance of play and will endeavour to provide a range of opportunities and experiences for all age groups that are accessible, interesting, diverse, and within walkable distance from the home. Playspaces will be designed to encourage social, physical, and cognitive development and will showcase the uniqueness of our district.

5.2 Guiding Principles

Several Guiding Principles are suggested to assist in the ongoing management and supply of playspaces across the district and include the following:

GP1: Understanding Play

The importance of play is recognised by Council, and it will strive to provide opportunities for children of all ages and abilities to develop the cognitive, social, and physical skills. It also acknowledges the various stages of development and will refer to age groups and their needs as:

- Infants 1 3 years of age
- Toddlers 3 6 years of age
- Juniors 6 12 years of age
- Young People 12+

GP2: Access to Play (500 for 500 Principle)

The whole community should have access to playspaces, and this principle is based on the notion that where possible, practical, and feasible, a playspace will be accessible within 500m of homes in larger residential areas, and smaller townships when the population reaches 500 people when 1 neighbourhood playspace will be developed.

GP3: Classifying Play

Playspaces will be classified according to the components of the Playspace Development Model and classifications used by Council to include local, neighbourhood, district and regional. Access to these facilities will be based on Guiding Principle 2

GP4: Designing Play

Design of playspaces will be in line with their intended classification and standards that guide their construction and installation⁸. Risk management will be considered and whilst mitigated, will be balanced alongside learning, development, and fun.

GP5: Managing Play

Council will develop an asset management register of playspaces that will identify the classification, with age based on a 66% component ratio of:

- Under 5 years
- 5-10
- 10-15
- 15-20
- 20 +

Playspaces in the first two groups of new -10 years, should be monitored, with the 10–20year groups being considered for 3–5-year budgeted asset replacement, and those over 20 years considered for immediate removal or replacement.

Unless identified as a strategic priority in an area of under supply, the management of existing playspaces will take precedence over developing new playspaces, and priority also given to those areas where a gap has been identified. The notion of quality over quantity will be a guiding principle for the ongoing management of play.

GP6: Play and Sport

It is recognised that sporting precincts are areas where families meet and congregate throughout the year. Quite often this is for spectating and young children may need entertaining. Playspaces are therefore warranted but location should be away from areas serving alcohol, but within line of sight or adults.

GP7: Partnerships and Stakeholder Relationships

Council will identify and work with partners and stakeholders to ensure a full range of accessible playspaces are provided in the community. This may include but not limited to, developers, education departments and schools, and private childcare providers.

⁸ AS 4685, AS 1428, AS/NZS 4422 and AS/NZS 4486.1

5.3 Recommendations

The following provides an overview of the existing playspaces and proposed actions noting that further community consultation may be required as and when recommendations are implemented. The removal of playspaces for example is extremely contentious, and the community must be made aware of the rationale and principle of quality over quantity as highlighted in GP5.

The tables on the following page provide a snapshot of recommendations along with priorities based on the life stage of the asset. This is combined with areas of identified need (gaps) or those that are deemed oversupplied and therefore justified for enhancement or removal. Priorities are discussed in terms of:

- High: Immediate or next 2-3 years
- Medium: 3-5 years
- Low: 5-10 years

Remove	RM	Remove and do not replace (over suppl
Replace	RP	Replace with same classification (when
Remove and Replace	RR	Remove and replace with different class
Enhance	Е	Add equipment/infrastructure (to meet o
Maintain	Μ	keep as is and maintain to the current le
	Replace Remove and Replace Enhance	ReplaceRPRemove and ReplaceRREnhanceE

 Table 6:
 Proposed Recommendations

PS	PS Name #		rent Cl	assifico	ation		Reco	mmeno	datio	n	Futi	Future Classifications Comment				F	Priority		
#			Ν	D	R	RM	RP	RR	E	м	L	N	D	R	Comment	н	м	L	
1	Alan Glassey Park East														Remove and consider new centralised playspace of at least NH				
2	Alan Glassey West														classification within the precinct				
3	Colin Jennings Apex Park														Enhance existing playspace to include additional equipment and potential nature play areas				
4	Curnow Park														Equipment very old and in need of replacing. Serves local community so replace with new local.				
5	Matthews Park														Potential for minor enhancements and additional equipment / shade / picnic areas				
6	Riverfront														Pending the outcome of pool needs analysis, potential to include splash pads and water features as a tourist destination.				
7	Rotary Park														Play space is in an area of oversupply but understand the sensitivities of removal. Suggest a master plan is developed				
8	Sandford Park														Serves the northwest area of town but needs to be replaced and new NH developed				
9	Monash Adventure Park														Maintain and keep promoting as a regional destination and playspace		L		
10	Lions Park														Replace with local as this playspace serves the northeast community of Barmera				
11	Barmera Playspace														Maintain and keep promoting as a regional destination and playspace				
12	Vincent														Remove and replace with new NH				
13	Lakefront											1	١A		Remove as surplus to needs. Potential to include splash pads in place				
14	Cobdogla														Remove and replace with a NH playspace given the size of the community				
15	Loveday														Maintain but replace equipment				

 Table 7: Playspace Recommendations

oly)

asset life reached)

ssification (when asset life reached)

current or a higher classification)

evel

5.4 New Playspace Recommendations

The following recommendations are identified gaps in provision based on the 500 in 500m principle as well as the identified vision and principles outlined in this report.

PS	L	Ν	D	R	Comment/Location	Η	Μ	L
1					Consolidation of playspaces at Allan Glassey Park as part of it master plan.			
2					New NH playspace recommended as part of proposed master plan for Memorial Ovals 1 and 2 in Berri			
3					Gap in the western residential area of Berri with potential to partner with Berri Primary School for access			
4					New playspace recommended in Glossop to meet the needs of the community			
5					New playspace at Bruce Oval in Barmera			
	0	4	1	0				

 Table 8: New Playspace Recommendations

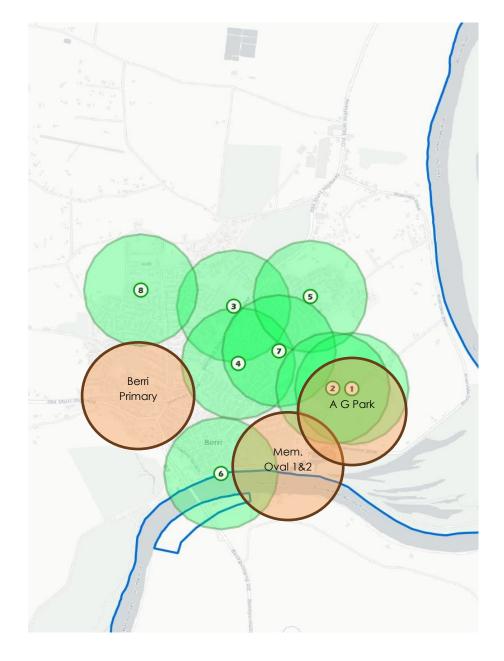
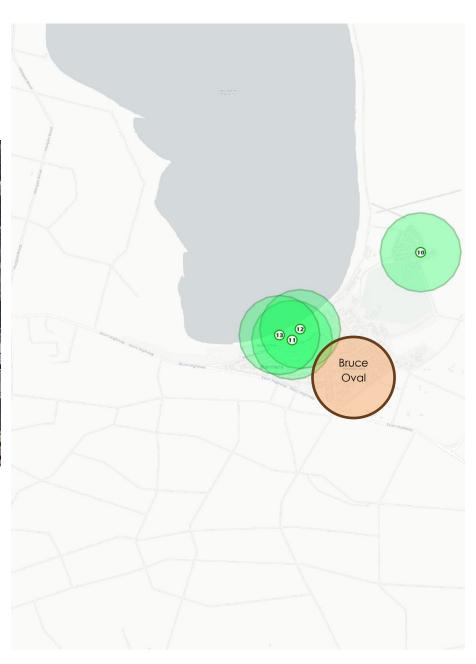




Figure 17: Proposed New Playspaces





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5.5 Summary and Conclusion

Whilst the provision of play across the district is generally good by way of quantity, the quality leaves room for improvement largely due to off the shelf ageing infrastructure, most of which is in excess of 20 years and therefore not meeting modern play demands and understanding. This should not however be seen as a criticism, but rather an opportunity for Council to adopt a staged and prioritised replacement strategy based on the findings in this report.

It is also important to understand that playspaces should not be duplicated by way of opportunity and experience, and in particular those of a district or higher classification, be designed with unique features and offerings not available in neighbourhood or local play areas. With this in mind, Table 9 highlights the proposed network of play and the notion of less small local playspaces, and more quality neighbourhood and higher classified spaces. Whilst the number of play areas also exceeds the benchmark and potential requirements, it is felt that the proposed supply meets the needs of the community and will ensure play is enhanced and the district promoted as destination for local and regional tourists.

	L	Ν	D	R	Total
Current Supply	4	7	2	2	15
Future Supply (with New playspaces)	3	12	3	2	20

Table 9: Summary of Provision