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Responsible Officer: Policy Coordinator

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OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 To provide a system of children's playgrounds that are safe, attractive and challenging to children.
- 1.2 To site playgrounds so that all children have an opportunity to use them.
- 1.3 To provide ancillary facilities to encourage adults to attend playgrounds with children and thus provide some supervision.
- 1.4 To distribute playgrounds through a system of local, district and regional parks.

POLICY

Public Participation

2.1 Concept and/or landscape plans for each new playground or a playground which is to undergo major alterations will be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of twenty-eight (28) days.

Playgrounds Safety Management System

3.1 The aim of the Playground Safety Management System (PSMS) is to define clear guidelines for the safe management and maintenance of Councils public playgrounds

3.2 The construction and maintenance of playgrounds will be carried out according to Australian Standards for Playgrounds (AS/NZS 4486.1-1997, AS 4685.1-2004, AS/NZS 4422-1996)

3.3 Elements of the PSMS include:

Equipment Register : Council shall maintain an up to date register of all playground equipment. The register shall include the following:

- Location of the playground
- The location of the play equipment within the playground
- Installer details
- Warranty details
- Inspection certificates (if applicable)
- Inspection and maintenance details
- Operating instructions (if applicable)
- Operator records

Playground Inspections : Monthly inspections are undertaken on each of Councils Playgrounds utilising the inspection maintenance forms.

Corrective Action : Councils PSMS shall include a systematic approach to corrective action where a hazard or hazards have been identified. Hazards may be identified via monthly inspections, bi annual audits, or via the Customer Request Management System (CRMS), reports via the community. Corrective action shall be taken to correct defects or to reinstate the safe operation of the playground. Any defect which puts safety at risk shall either be corrected without delay, or the item shall be secured against use or removed.

Maintenance Procedures : Council shall carry out all maintenance procedures in accordance with the manufacturers specifications.

Incidence : Incidents occurring from playgrounds shall be documented in line with Councils incident reporting procedures and the appropriate recording of incident/s as per Councils PSMS.

Park and Playground Guidelines

4.1 The following guidelines are to be utilised when planning for parks and playgrounds:

Local Parks would usually contain:

- A picnic shelter and seating
- A rubbish receptacle
- Some form of shade
- A small kick about area
- Concrete pathways
- A drinking fountain
- A local playground catering for the zero to teen age bracket which is compliant with Australian Standards and incorporates rubber safety surface as well as a small play unit containing a slide and climbing apparatus, swing set, spring rocker and slide.

District parks would usually contain:-

- Car parking
- Rubbish receptacles
- Picnic shelters and seating incorporating at least one BBQ
- Some form of shade
- Public Toilets incorporating male, female and accessible cubicles
- Drinking fountains
- A larger kick about area than a local park
- Lighting
- Concrete pathways
- A district playground catering for the 0 to teen age bracket which is compliant with Australian Standards and incorporates rubber safety surface as well as a medium sized play unit containing a slide and climbing apparatus, swing set, spring rocker and slide. At least one of the items must be targeted towards the 0-4 age bracket.

Regional Parks would usually contain:-

- A formalised car park with the capacity for bus/coach parking incorporating disabled parking spaces with direct links to the park via concrete pathways
- Picnic shelters and seating with the capacity for large groups incorporating at least two BBQs
- Drinking fountains
- Rubbish receptacles
- Public toilets incorporating male, female and accessible cubicles
- Lighting
- An extensive network of concrete pathways
- Large areas of shade
- Good access to public transport links and major roads
- The ability to cater for large amounts of people
- A regional playground compliant with Australian Standards incorporating:-
 - Access for all ages and abilities
 - Rubber safety surfacing comprising three different colours
 - A large play centre with a slide and climbing apparatus
 - A swing set
 - At least two spring rockers

Parks - Playgrounds

At least two vertical spinners

A separate and unique piece of equipment such as a flying-fox, spider-web type climber, revolving spinner etc

Seating

At least two of the items must target the 0-4 age bracket

At least one of the items must target teenagers

Minimum 1.2m wide concrete pathway around the playground