



**MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.**  
*Mitchell Play Space Strategy 2015*



**MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL**



# Definitions

Term	Definition in this strategy
Amenities	Park elements such as seats, shelters, natural or built shade, barbecues, toilets.
Open space	Publicly accessible parks, gardens and reserves and used for a range of formal and/or informal recreation.
Play space	A formalised area that has a range of opportunities for play by children. Can include play equipment, nature play elements, hard and grassed surfaces.
Playground	A formalised area that is primarily play equipment based.
Universal design	Design that encourages use by all people.



Acknowledgement – This strategy has been significantly informed by Whitehorse City Council's Play Space Strategy 2011 which was developed by Lesley Humphreys of LMH Consulting Group in conjunction with the author of this Mitchell Play Space Strategy, who is now working for Mitchell Shire Council.

# Contents.

<b>1</b>	<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Mitchell Shire</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Importance of Play Space</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Play Space Trends</b>	<b>9</b>
	Benefit-risk assessment	9
	'Play space'	9
	Environmental sustainability	9
	Universal design	9
<b>7.</b>	<b>Other Play Space Planning and Design Considerations</b>	<b>10</b>
	Location of play spaces	10
	Level of service	10
	Shade	10
	Fencing	10
	Seating	10
	Smoke-free	10
	Toilets	10
<b>8.</b>	<b>Vision and Principles</b>	<b>11</b>
	Principles	11
<b>9.</b>	<b>Levels of Play Space Service</b>	<b>12</b>
	Play Spaces	12
	Cost of service	12
<b>10.</b>	<b>Planning and Design Framework</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Appendices</b>	<b>16</b>
	Appendix 1: Mitchell Shire Council's Strategic Planning Context	16
	Appendix 2 – Play space provision by town/area by levels of service and population 2013	18
	Appendix 3 – Mitchell Open Space Strategy pages 58-63	19
	Appendix 4 Play Australia – Play needs of children	24
	Appendix 5 – References	28

# 1. Executive Summary

The Mitchell Play Space Strategy 2015 (MPSS) provides the framework for the sustainable provision of Council's current and future network of play spaces.

The 2014/15 Action Plan of the Mitchell Open Space Strategy 2013-2023 (MOSS) included the development of a Play Space Strategy for Mitchell Shire. This strategy was considered a priority as it would help address some inequities within the network of play spaces serving Mitchell's current residents and would define service levels for renewal of play spaces and provision of new. Defining service levels for new sites is particularly important in ensuring that play spaces provided by developers of new residential areas are appropriate and affordable for ratepayers in the longer term and support equity within the network.

The MOSS includes a broad planning and development framework which seeks to achieve an equitable distribution of a diverse range of open space services for people who live, work and visit the Shire.

The MOSS framework defines standards for the provision, design and maintenance of open space, based on the primary function/s and setting of a site and the catchment it serves. Of particular relevance to the MPSS are the service standards for areas with a prime function of 'social/family recreation'. Applying the MOSS's service hierarchy, these sites are classified as 'local', 'district' or 'Shire-wide/regional'. The design elements and service levels specified for each

of these classifications reflect the number of people served within the catchment area.

The Mitchell Play Space Strategy further develops the MOSS's provision standards to establish more specific guidelines for future play space services and associated amenities. The design framework is aspirational, to be implemented over time, subject to land and funding availability.

In more recent times, there have been a number of significant trends in play space provision including greater use of nature play elements, the application of benefit-risk assessment rather than risk management driving play space equipment and design, greater emphasis on access and inclusion and whole of park design and a greater awareness and appreciation of environmental sustainability.

Councils have also placed a greater emphasis on the sustainable provision of their services through service planning, defining service levels, the application of asset management principles to facility provision and financial planning for the longer term.

The MPSS is based on contemporary understandings of play and play value and reflects the significant trends which have occurred in play space provision and design in recent years.

Play spaces are highly valued community assets and it is important that the service can be sustained and improved for future generations.



## 2. Introduction

The MPSS's primary focus is on publicly accessible play spaces for children aged 2-11 however parks and play spaces also provide play and social opportunities for children younger than two and older than 11, as well as adults.

Most play spaces in Mitchell Shire are in parks on land owned or managed by Council, directly or indirectly. In areas of residential development there are new parks and/or play spaces still under the ownership and/or maintenance responsibility of the developer or body corporate. There is one play space on Crown land not managed by Council. As all of the play spaces are providing a publicly accessible service, they have been included in the MPSS.

The MPSS does not include non-public play spaces, such as those at children's centres, schools, tennis clubs or on

private land. The MPSS considers, but does not focus on, play areas such as skate/BMX and hard surfaces which are included in other service planning.

There are currently 40 publicly accessible play spaces in Mitchell Shire. All except one of these sites is or will become Council's responsibility for maintenance and renewal. Over time, new sites in residential development areas will also become Council's responsibility.

The 'like for like' capital replacement of Council's existing network of play spaces is estimated to be \$4.4M, ideally over a 15 year renewal program.



## 3. Background

In September 2013, Council adopted the Mitchell Open Space Strategy 2013-2023 (MOSS). The MOSS has a planning and development framework which seeks to achieve an equitable distribution of a diverse range of open space services for people who live, work and visit Mitchell Shire.

The framework defines the standards for provision, design and maintenance of open space, based on primary function/s

and setting of a site and the catchment it serves. Of particular relevance to the Mitchell Play Space Strategy, are the service standards for areas with a prime function of 'social/family recreation'. Applying a service hierarchy, these sites are classified as 'local', 'district' or Shire-wide/regional'. The service levels specified for each of these classifications reflect the number of people served within the catchment area.



## 4. Mitchell Shire

Mitchell Shire covers an area of 2,864 square kilometres and incorporates the townships of Beveridge, Broadford, Heathcote Junction, Kilmore, Puckapunyal, Pyalong, Reedy Creek, Seymour, Tallarook, Tooborac, Wallan and Wandong.

The Shire's southern boundary is 40km north of Melbourne with the majority of the Shire outside the urban fringe. The southern towns of Beveridge and, since 2012, Wallan are within Melbourne's Urban Growth Boundary.

In 2013, the estimated population of Mitchell Shire was 37,319. By 2021, this is predicted to increase by 13,418 to 50,737. Most (11,882) of this increase will occur in and around the southern townships of Wallan (7,215), Beveridge (2,675) and Kilmore/Kilmore East (1,992).

By 2021 an estimated 18% or nearly 1 in 5 people in the Wallan/Beveridge areas are predicted to be aged 0-9 years. In 2013 Wallan had 17.7% and Beveridge 14.9%.

Total population will also increase substantially over this 2013-2021 period. Other areas in Mitchell are predicted to have little change in their current percentages of children aged 0-9 years by 2021 with the lowest being Seymour (11.2%), Wandong/Heathcote Junction (12.1%), which are also predicted to have minimal changes in total population by 2021.

Based on the 2011 Census figures, the index of relative disadvantage varies across the Shire, with Seymour (898.7) and Broadford (968.6) being below the regional Victoria (977.7) and Mitchell Shire (996.1) indices. That is, Seymour and Broadford, on average, are the more disadvantaged areas of Mitchell.

The MPSS's planning framework reflects the mixed nature of Mitchell's township communities and population distribution and densities, now and into the future.



## 5. Importance of Play Spaces

'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 arts.'  
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31.

There is extensive research which supports the importance of play for a child's physical, social and emotional development.

Whilst children play in many different environments, particularly in rural and regional areas, the provision of publicly accessible play spaces by local government is a highly valued community service.

Public play spaces are becoming increasingly important as private open space, such as backyards, reduce in more densely populated residential areas.

Public play spaces and parks also provide important social meeting for children and adults, fostering community connections and health. They can be particularly important for people in new residential development and/or isolated areas.

Providing spaces which encourage physical activity and social interaction is vital in addressing some contemporary physical and mental health challenges.



# 6. Play Space Trends

## Benefit-risk assessment

Previously risk management and minimisation was the focus of local government agencies. Whilst risk management is still important, there is now a greater understanding of the development benefits of children learning to assess risks and make judgements. Play advocacy groups are now promoting the use of benefit/risk assessment. This change in focus has seen some interesting and challenging nature play elements and play equipment items being included in play space designs. This has resulted in these types of play spaces holding the interest of older children for longer than those with less challenge and unpredictability.

## 'Play space'

There has been a trend away from a dependence on modular play equipment towards spaces which incorporate play in more natural and dynamic environments and the use of the term 'play space' rather than 'playground'. This is particularly relevant in the Mitchell context where there are large areas of public and private open space which provide stimulating nature play opportunities. Notwithstanding, there still needs to be accessible play and social opportunities for people living in predominantly residential areas.

## Environmental sustainability

There has been an increasing trend towards providing 'nature based play' opportunities for children, particularly for children in urbanised areas. This reflects the growing body of research which highlights the value of children's interaction with their natural environment.

Linked to this, there has also been a return to the use of more sustainable materials rather than steel and plastics by manufacturers of play equipment and by play space designers. On the other hand there is an increasing use of nylon-based products, particularly for climbing equipment.

## Universal design

Public parks and play spaces need to be designed, constructed, managed and maintained to provide optimum access for people of all ages and abilities. This requires a 'whole of park' approach, as well as for the play space. Whilst a play space may include equipment and other play elements which are accessible, it is just as important to provide pathways and car parking which facilitate access. In terms of play spaces, ease of access is important not only for children but also their parents or carers.

The degree of access and level of supporting amenities will be in accord with the design guidelines for 'local', 'district' or 'Shire-wide/regional' play space levels of service of the MPSS.

# 7. Other Play Space Planning and Design Considerations

## Location of play spaces

The location and nature of a play space needs to be considered on a whole of park basis. If the project is a renewal one, an assessment of the appropriateness of the location of the play space being replaced needs to be made. Visibility and passive surveillance can improve safety for users and reduce vandalism.

An assessment of proximity risks, such as roads, car parks, shared pathways, railway, water bodies/drains/flood prone and dog off lead, and how these risks could be managed also needs to be undertaken. If the land is a former landfill site or may be contaminated, soil testing will be required.

## Level of service

Provision of the play space service and associated amenities should reflect the catchment served. These will be based on the service hierarchy established in the MOSS for social/family recreation open spaces – ‘local’, ‘district’ or ‘Shire-wide/regional’.

For new residential areas, it is important to have clear levels of service defined so that infrastructure provided by developers and which becomes Council’s responsibility is appropriate and affordable for ratepayers.

## Shade

Unlike school environments, parents and carers have a greater choice of the times and in what conditions children can play in public parks. Use of play areas in high UV periods or extreme weather conditions should be avoided and appropriate protective measures such as hats and sunscreen should be used when children are outdoors in warmer weather.

The MPSS design guidelines provide for appropriate species of shade trees at and near play spaces and for built shade structures at higher levels of service/longer stay sites.

## Fencing

Play spaces should be located and designed to minimise the need for fencing in parks. Play Australia does not support fencing and gates if they are for confining children, rather reinforces the need for carer supervision of children.

Fencing can however be considered if required for safety or if a play area is specifically designed for children with additional needs.

## Seating

Seating will be provided at all play spaces. Preferably, it will be located to the north of the play space with some shade and provide good visual surveillance of play areas. Seats should have back rests.

## Smoke-free

Since 1 April 2014, under the Victorian Tobacco Act 1987, smoking is banned outdoors within 10 metres of playgrounds, skate parks, sporting venues during under 18s events and within public swimming pool grounds. No smoking within 10 metres signage has been erected at all Mitchell Shire Council play spaces.

## Toilets

In accordance with the MOSS’s design framework, accessible toilets will be provided at longer stay sites, such as ‘Shire-wide/regional’ and some ‘District’ level sites. Generally, toilets will not be provided at local level parks but may be available at sites linked to other services, such as sporting facilities or tourist destinations.

# 8. Vision and Principles

The MPSS has been developed in the context of a range of Council strategic and service plans. These are summarised in Appendix 1. The most relevant to this MPSS is the Mitchell Open Space Strategy 2013-2023 (MOSS).

The MPSS is based on the vision of the MOSS –

*‘Mitchell Shire Council is committed to providing open spaces that serve the needs of people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and abilities.*

*Our open spaces will be visually inviting and encourage healthy lifestyles for current and future generations, as they will be well planned, well maintained and accessible to the community.’*

## Principles

The MOSS’s principles have been interpreted for play spaces and will inform the priorities for provision and renewals –

- > Diversity – the network of play spaces will provide for a variety of age groups, physical and social opportunities and environmental experiences. Diversity will be enhanced by using professional play space designers for higher level of service sites. Designs will be guided by MPSS service level classifications.
- > Appropriateness – play spaces will be designed and developed in accordance with the guidelines of the MPSS Play Space and Design Framework. Council’s play space service levels will reflect the catchment served and the availability or otherwise of formal and informal play opportunities within the particular community or area.
- > Colocation and multiple use – efficient and effective use of resources through integration of community, active and social services. Where appropriate, play spaces will be collocated with other community, recreation and open space services.
- > Access and inclusion – play spaces and ancillary amenities will be based on the principles of universal design.

- > Tailored delivery – the type of settlement and population to be served will determine the park and play space level of service. In established residential areas, play space improvement priority will be given to addressing gaps in service and the renewal of play spaces serving larger catchments. Council will work with residential developers to facilitate the timely delivery of play spaces in new communities.
- > Community and stakeholder partnerships – Through partnerships and community engagement and participation, Council will seek to enhance the range, quality and level of community ownership of play spaces.
- > Protection and enhancement of natural and cultural heritage – Council will design play spaces to optimise appreciation, enhancement and protection of the natural environment and features, landscape character and cultural heritage for future generations.
- > Affordability – Play space and park development will occur in a strategic and well-planned manner. The levels of service provided will be determined by the MPSS Play Space and Design Framework, based on the catchment to be served - ‘local’, ‘district’ or ‘Shire-wide/regional’. This will support equity within the service network but also affordability for ratepayers over time.

# 9. Levels of Play Space Service

## Play spaces

There are currently 40 publicly accessible play spaces in Mitchell Shire. All except one of these sites (a playground on Crown land for which Council is not the Committee of Management) is or will become Council's responsibility for management, maintenance and renewal. Over time, additional sites which are part of new residential developments will also become Council's responsibility.

The current provision and levels of service by town or area, based on 2013 populations, are detailed in Appendix 2.

Issues which have been identified during the development of the MPSS are –

- > There are gaps in supply and/or ease of access in some towns
- > There are overlaps in supply in some places
- > There are opportunities to provide greater diversity of play opportunities
- > The quality and play value of a number of play spaces reflect their age in terms of design
- > There are opportunities for greater integration of play spaces with broader park design and improvement projects (includes consideration of accessibility for all)
- > It is preferable to undertake play space renewals on a whole of play space and integrated design basis than by play element by play element replacement basis
- > The three most heavily used sites (Goulburn Park, Hadfield Park and Hudson Park) are the most in need of upgrading, although this is being addressed in 2014/15 and 2015/16 capital projects
- > Some higher potential risk sites, by condition and/or compliance, have been addressed in 2014/15
- > Wallan and Kilmore are the highest priorities for improved service provision for their existing populations, including the priority for upgrading of play spaces at Hadfield Park, Wallan, and Hudson Park, Kilmore, from their current district levels of service to Shire-wide/regional

- > For new residential areas, there is a need to have clear levels of services defined so that infrastructure provided by developers and which becomes Council's is appropriate and affordable for ratepayers and which supports equity within the service network
- > Funds for asset renewal, particularly for higher levels of service/potential risks sites need to be maintained at a level which will sustain and improve the network

## Cost of service

The 'like for like' capital replacement of the existing play space sites which are currently or will become Council's responsibility is estimated to be \$4.4M. This includes consultation, design, site preparation, removal of old equipment, and project management. It does not include the costs for provision of associated park infrastructure, except for play space seating.

Maintenance and inspections of play spaces are additional costs included in Council's annual operational budgets.

The life of a play space varies, depending on usage, materials, environmental conditions, quality of construction and maintenance levels. Benchmarking indicates that most local governments depreciate their play spaces over 15 years. Higher usage sites are depreciated over a maximum of 10 years and also have much higher annual operational costs. Rubberised soft-fall needs to be depreciated over 6-7 years so needs to be considered separately.

It is preferable for councils to have an even pattern of play space asset renewal over a 15 year cycle. This can be a challenge for councils which have had extensive areas of residential development occur over a relatively short period. Whilst developers of the land may have been required to provide public open space and associated infrastructure, the land is usually later transferred to council ownership. Councils therefore become responsible for the assets and their renewal. Councils can therefore face peaks in asset renewals rather than more even patterns.

The \$4.4M replacement value of the existing network on a 15 year cycle equates to an average of \$295,000 per annum (based on 2015 costs). To continue providing this level of play space service, Council's annual capital renewal budgets need to reflect this figure (adjusted annually to reflect procurement cost changes). These figures will also need updating to reflect future changes to the numbers of sites and/or levels of service at sites.

This \$4.4M replacement value includes provision of \$400,000 for upgrades of each of Hadfield and Hudson Parks, to a level of play space service similar to that at the recently upgraded Goulburn Park, Seymour.

It does not include the costs of addressing some gaps in provision for existing populations in Wallan and Kilmore however these could be covered by decommissioning, rather than renewing when they fall due, sites in other areas with overlapping supply and/or declining demand.

Any changes in levels of service would be dependent on the outcomes of site and/or area specific community consultation at the time.



# 10. Planning and Design Framework

The planning and design framework is based on the Mitchell Open Space Strategy 2013-2023 (MOSS) –

MOSS Appendix 2: Open space classifications – function types.

Under these classifications, ‘social/family recreation’ (SFR) areas are defined as ‘Open space areas reserved or provided for social, group and physical activities of people from a wide range of age groups and abilities. These areas typically provide opportunities for play, social gatherings, social games and sports activities, exercise, as well as including amenity and environmental elements.’

‘Sport’ areas are defined as ‘Open space areas reserved or provided for sporting pursuits.’

The majority of play spaces in Mitchell are provided in open space with a prime function of SFR or sport. The MOSS identified the need to provide new or enhanced SFR spaces across the Shire.

The MOSS defines the ‘Play’ function area type as ‘Open space areas reserved or provided for children’s play, and which do not cater for other age groups or recreation facilities, physical activity and environmental components.

The MOSS also defines open space catchments as –

- > Local - Open space predominantly serving an immediate local catchment. This has a relatively small size (eg up to 1 ha), services daily and weekly needs, and is generally accessed by walking or cycling from surrounding areas.
- > District – Open space predominantly serving a township, precinct or group of suburbs.
- > Regional – Open space predominantly serving the whole municipality or region. This may have significance to a large population including visitors.

MOSS Appendix 4: Standards for the provision, design and maintenance of open space

These provide guidance for the provision of services in parks, play spaces and associated infrastructure, where feasible. For areas with a prime functionality of SFR, the service standards or levels reflect the catchment -based classifications above (local, district, shire-wide/regional).

For play equipment provision, the following applies -

- > Local parks – May include play equipment depending on proximity to other play areas.
- > District parks – To include play equipment and natural vegetated areas for play.
- > Shire-wide/regional parks – To include play equipment and natural vegetated areas for play.

A full copy of the ‘Social/family recreation’ section of the MOSS’s Appendix 4: Standards for the provision, design and maintenance of open space is Appendix 3 to this MPSS.

These MOSS service guidelines have been used to develop a design framework, on a broader park amenity basis, for play spaces by service level classification. Play space design will also be informed by Play Australia’s ‘Play Needs of Children’ document which outlines the developmental needs of children and associated play areas required.

This design framework will inform the planning of new play spaces, including assessment of those proposed by developers in new residential areas, and renewal and/or upgrading of existing ones.

The design framework is aspirational, to be implemented over time, subject to land and funding availability.

## Play Space and Design Framework

	Classification		
	Local	District	Shire Wide/Regional
Function Catchment Served	Predominantly immediate local	Predominately a township, precinct or group of suburbs.	Predominantly whole municipality or region. May have significance to a large population including visitors.
	In urbanised areas 400 m of most households (without having to cross barriers)		
Length and Stay	Short	Short Medium	Longer
Target Groups / Play Opportunities	Primarily toddlers, younger children, depending on other options within the locality's play network. In more rural or isolated areas, needs to cater for older children as well	Toddlers, younger and older children. Some youth and adult options	All ages and range of abilities
Features - Play			
Nature play opportunities	✓	✓✓	✓✓✓
Playground equipment	✓ Depending on proximity, others within area	✓✓	✓✓✓
Hard surfaces - bikes, scooters	✓	✓✓	✓✓✓
Grassed run- about space	✓	✓✓	✓✓✓
Bushland	✓	✓	✓✓
Skate, BMX		✓✓	✓✓✓
Half court basketball		✓	✓✓
Synthetic soft fall	Minimum	May	Some
Amenities			
Seating	✓	✓✓	✓✓✓
Shade trees	✓	✓✓	✓✓✓
Built shade structures		✓✓	✓✓✓
Drinking water		✓✓	✓✓✓
BBQ's		✓ Some Sites	✓✓✓
Picnic shelters		✓ Some Sites	✓✓✓
Pathways	✓	✓	✓✓✓ Accessible
Lighting	Security - may	Pathways - some	Night activities - some
Toilets		✓✓ Accessible	✓✓✓ Accessible
Bins		✓	✓✓✓ Recycling
On site parking		✓	✓ Sealed
Designated disability car parking and assessable pathway		✓	✓✓✓
Bicycle parking		✓✓	✓✓✓
Signage - No Smoking Signs	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
<b>LESS RELEVANT ✓ MORE RELEVANT ✓✓✓</b>			

# 11. Appendices

## Appendix 1: Mitchell Shire Council's Strategic Planning Context

The Mitchell Play Space Strategy has been developed within Council's strategic and service planning context –

The most relevant objectives of the Council Plan 2013-2017 are:

### **HEALTHY AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES**

*“Providing and supporting programs and services to build vibrant and healthy communities where people are proud to live.”*

### **SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

*“Shaping the future of our communities through forward planning and well- built and maintained facilities and infrastructure.”*

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017 includes:

*“Implement the Mitchell Open Space Strategy (MOSS), a planning and development framework for the provision of open space and off road trails in Mitchell Shire to 2023.”*

*“Promote access, awareness, understanding and opportunities for inclusion of people with a disability.”*

*“Mitchell Shire Council will take a leadership role in the planning and development of current and future services for the community with an emphasis on physical infrastructure and economic development.”*

The objectives of the Mitchell Open Space Strategy 2013-2023 have been detailed in the body of this Play Space Strategy.

The Early Years Plan 2012-16 for children 0-8 years identified priorities for attention, including:

The timely provision of infrastructure and spaces for children, particularly in growth areas of Beveridge, Wallan and Kilmore, by careful infrastructure planning

and advocacy.

Improving the health and safety of our young children, including by monitoring commitments for improving children's playgrounds, open space and walking trails.

Making a difference for vulnerable children – children in the most disadvantaged areas, including improving playgrounds.

During community consultations, the top three suggestions from child and family service providers in Mitchell, to create more child and family friendly communities and environments were –

1. Providing community events
2. Quality public open space
3. Improving children's playgrounds

The Plan includes actions to improve recreation facilities:

Upgrade/provision of regional playgrounds including provision for all abilities in major townships within the Shire.

Increase in open space/parklands that provide a safe play environment for children (particularly in the south of the Shire where there are increasing housing developments).

The Plan also included feedback about suggested improvements at specific locations throughout the Shire, including playgrounds. These suggestions can be considered in the context of the planning and design framework of the Mitchell Play Space Strategy 2015.

The Access and Inclusion disAbility Plan 2013-2017 includes priorities and objectives, including:

Social environment – Priority 1: Promote inclusion and contribution in the community and encourage awareness and understanding by celebrating the diversity of people who live, work and visit the Mitchell Shire. Objective 1.2: Enhance participation and

contributions in community activities.

Physical and natural environment – Priority 3:  
Promote accessibility to the physical and natural environment so that people with disability can enjoy ALL areas of the shire. Objective 3.2: Develop processes that consider accessibility for all in council's natural environment, including new and existing open space, outdoor areas, playgrounds and walking trails.

The Youth Strategy 2014-2017 focuses on young people aged 10-24. The Strategy's Key Theme 3: 'Places to go and things to do' has the goal of providing accessible, sustainable, inclusive and culturally diverse recreational and entertainment opportunities for young people within Mitchell

Shire. Actions include identifying and creating additional 'youth friendly' spaces within the shire, egs libraries, youth centres and skate parks.

The Mitchell Shire Council Environment Strategy 2014-2024 includes the following actions:

Promote existing natural areas through the provision of new infrastructure to increase community access to the natural environment and increase awareness and appreciation of our natural environment.

Provide opportunities for young people to become better connected and more active in their local environment



## Appendix 2 – Publicly accessible play space provision by town/area by levels of service (2015) and population 2013 Census

Measure	Beveridge	Broadford area	Kilmore/ Kilmore East	Pyalong/ Rural North West	Rural North East Note 1	Seymour	Wallan	Wandong/ Heathcote Junction area Note 2	Mitchell Shire Note 3
Population 2013	1,082	4,586	7,732	1,867	1,562	6,543	9,611	2,993	37,319
No. of Children Aged 0-9 Years 2013	162	578	1,079	211	158	737	1,700	365	5,294
No. of Play Spaces and Level of Service									
Local	2	6	5	2	1	8	9	2	35
District	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Shire Wide/Regional	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	1
Total	2	6	6	2	1	10	10	2	39
No. of Play Spaces/Head Population	1:541	1:764	1:1289	1:933	1:1565	1:654	1:961	1:1496	1:956
No. of Play Spaces/Child 0-9 Years	1:81	1:96	1:180	1:105	1:158	1:74	1:170	1:182	1:136
<b>POPULATION 2013 DENSITY/HECTARE</b>	<b>0.77</b> (Beveridge/ Wallan)	<b>0.28</b>	<b>1.23</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>0.77</b> (Beveridge/ Wallan)	<b>0.08</b>	

### Notes

1. The Rural North East planning district includes Puckapunyal Army Base which provides open space and play facilities for its onsite community. The facilities are not publicly accessible.

The data above therefore does not include the Puckapunyal play space, nor the population and children based at Puckapunyal.

2. The Wandong/Heathcote Junction district includes the small community of Waterford Park which has a local level play space. This play space has not been included in the total play space figure for the Wandong/Heathcote Junction district as it primarily serves the small Waterford Park community. Inclusion would skew the comparative data. Approx 40% of the population and 48% of children 0-9 years in the district live in its more densely populated areas of Wandong/Heathcote Junction east of the Hume Highway. There are two play spaces available to these residents with provision ratios of 1:597 play spaces per head population and 1:114 play spaces per child 0-9 years. Ease of access to one of these play spaces is compromised by major rail and road barriers. This results in provision ratios of 1:1194 play spaces per head of population and 1:228 play spaces per child 0-9 years.

3. Adding the Waterford Park play space to the 39 above means there are 40 publicly accessible play spaces in Mitchell.



## Appendix 3 – Mitchell Open Space Strategy pages 58-63

Appendix 4. Standards for the provision, design and maintenance of open space.

Social/Family Recreation				
Characteristic	Checklist	Local	District	Shire Wide
<b>Size</b>	<b>Minimum size and minimum dimensions</b>	Minimum size of 1ha and minimum dimensions of 70m in any direction	Minimum size of 2ha and minimum dimensions of 70m in any direction	Minimum size of 2ha and minimum dimensions of 70m in any direction
<b>Location and Distribution</b>	<b>Model of provision for employment, commercial, industrial and residential areas</b>	May be provided in residential, business, and industrial zones.  Parcel to be zoned as PPRZ or PCRZ depending on significance to ensure adjacent land uses do not encroach onto the space.	May be provided in residential, business, and industrial zones.  Parcel to be zoned as PPRZ or PCRZ depending on significance to ensure adjacent land uses do not encroach onto the space.	May be provided in residential, business, and industrial zones.  Parcel to be zoned as PPRZ or PCRZ depending on significance to ensure adjacent land uses do not encroach onto the space.
	<b>Provided in prominent locations for surveillance</b>	Prominent locations within a development with high public visibility  Not to be located at cul-de-sac heads	Prominent locations with high visibility that draws users from beyond a suburb.	Prominent locations with high visibility that draws users from across the Shire.
	<b>Space not to be taken as encumbered land, but may be located contiguous to it to provide a larger overall area</b>	Not to be provided on encumbered land (including retarding basins).	Not to be provided on encumbered land (including retarding basins) but may include an element of unencumbered land additional to its core requirements as a social/family recreation open space.	Not to be provided on encumbered land (including retarding basins) but may include an element of unencumbered land additional to its core requirements as a social/family recreation open space.
	<b>One in each township, plus equitable distribution in urban areas</b>	One social/family recreation open space to serve each township.  In urban areas provide within 400m of every household (without having to cross an arterial road / railway or other major physical barrier).  Spaces to be developed with a range of landscape setting types to create diversity.	At least one in each township/activity centre, and within 1km of every household in an urban area (without having to cross an arterial road/railway or other major physical barrier).  Spaces to be developed with a range of landscape setting types to create diversity.	Shire-wide open space not subject to distance thresholds.  Internal spaces to be developed with a range of landscape setting types to create diversity.
	<b>Hierarchy of roads/public transport routes</b>	Should not be located on collector/arterial roads.  Located central to the catchment it is designed to serve.	May be located on collector/arterial roads (as long as they are central to the catchment it is designed to serve).  Located on public transport routes.	Located on collector/arterial roads.  Located on public transport routes.

## Appendix 3 – Mitchell Open Space Strategy pages 58-63 (continued)

Appendix 4. Standards for the provision, design and maintenance of open space.

Social/Family Recreation				
Characteristic	Checklist	Local	District	Shire Wide
<b>Location and Distribution</b>	<b>Road frontages</b>	Road frontages on at least two sides.	Road frontages on at least three sides.	Road frontages on all sides.  Provided some distance from houses to limit impact from noise, car parking and lights.
	<b>Suitable topography</b>	Generally flat to undulating topography.	Generally flat to undulating topography.	No specific requirement other than one area. Generally flat to undulating topography.
	<b>Relationship with schools and activity centres</b>	Provided in conjunction with neighbourhood activity centres and primary schools (to be collectively made available to the community after hours).	Provided in conjunction with major activity centres and secondary schools (to be collectively made available to the community after hours).	Whilst not necessary to be located in conjunction with schools and activity centres, there should be consideration of access and proximity to these facilities.
	<b>Collocation with community facilities</b>	Centrally located in community activity node e.g. adjacent to sports, commercial or community meeting facilities.  May be established as part of open space for sport.	Centrally located in community activity node e.g. adjacent to sports, commercial or community meeting facilities.  May be established as part of open space for sport.	Consideration required in access and proximity to community facilities.  May be established as part of open space for sport.
	<b>Relationship with waterway corridors</b>	May be co-located with waterway corridors if central to the catchment, however a minimum 30m wide riparian buffer is required. (Encumbered land will not be considered an open space contribution)	May be co-located with waterway corridors, however a minimum 30m wide riparian buffer is required. (Encumbered land will not be considered an open space contribution).	May be located with a regional waterway corridor, however a minimum 30m wide riparian buffer is required. (Encumbered land will not be considered an open space contribution).
	<b>Buffers between highways/transport corridors</b>	Provided with adequate width between the open space and highway/transport corridor ensuring safety (minimum 50m from freeways, M or A roads <sup>1</sup> ).	Provided with adequate width between the open space and highway/transport corridor ensuring safety.	Provided with adequate width between the open space and highway/transport corridor ensuring safety.
<b>Accessibility</b>	<b>An accessible path of travel into the space</b>	An accessible path of travel into the space.	An accessible path of travel into the space.	An accessible path of travel into the space.
	<b>Served by a shared path or off-road trail</b>	Desirably served by an off-road trail.	Served by an off-road trail.	Served by an off-road trail.
	<b>Designed to include a perimeter exercise path</b>	Designed to include a perimeter exercise path.	Designed to include a perimeter exercise path and internal path system.	Designed to include a perimeter exercise path and internal path system.

<sup>1</sup> Email: Senior Planning Engineer, VicRoads.

## Appendix 3 – Mitchell Open Space Strategy pages 58-63 (continued)

Appendix 4. Standards for the provision, design and maintenance of open space.

Social/Family Recreation				
Characteristic	Checklist	Local	District	Shire Wide
<b>Accessibility</b>	<b>Internal path systems to access facilities</b>	Accessibility to major facilities through internal path systems.	Accessibility to major facilities through internal path systems.	Fully accessible internal path system to all facilities.
	<b>Accessibility of infrastructure to people with a disability</b>	Key social elements accessible to people with a disability.	Key elements accessible to people with a disability and accessible toilets.	Full accessibility to people with a disability.
<b>Facilities and Structures</b>	<b>Access to drinking water</b>	Access to drinking water in existing facilities only.	Access to drinking water provided.	Access to drinking water provided.
	<b>On-site car parking</b>	No on-site car parking.	On-site car parking.	Sealed on-site car parking.
		Barriers may be provided to restrict vehicle access.	Barriers may be provided to restrict vehicle access.	Barriers may be provided to restrict vehicle access.
	<b>Bicycle parking</b>	Bicycle parking may be provided dependant on expected usage.	Bicycle parking/storage to be provided.	Bicycle parking/storage to be provided.
	<b>Public art works</b>	No public art works.	May include public art works.	May include public art works.
	<b>Provision of toilets (may be in conjunction with sporting fields)</b>	No toilet facilities.	Accessible toilet facilities.	Accessible toilet facilities. May include multiple facilities dependant on the size of open space.
	<b>BBQ and associated facilities</b>	No BBQ facilities.	Some areas to have picnic/BBQ, and additional facilities.	To include picnic/BBQ, and/or food and beverage.
	<b>Play equipment</b>	May include play equipment depending on proximity to other play areas.	To include play equipment and natural vegetated areas for play.	To include play equipment and natural vegetated areas for play.
	<b>Shade, shelter and seating</b>	Some shade, shelter and seating.	Areas of natural and built shade, shelter and seating.	Significant natural and built shade, shelter and seating.
	<b>Other specific recreation facilities: e.g. skate facilities, mountain bike, BMX or hard ball courts e.g. free access tennis and basketball courts</b>	May include some hard court ball courts e.g. free access tennis, basketball or multi sport court.	To include some hard court ball courts e.g. free access tennis, basketball or multisport courts.  May include skate, mountain bike or BMX facilities.	To include some hard court ball courts e.g. free access tennis and basketball courts.  May include skate, mountain bike or BMX facilities.
<b>Dog off-leash area</b>	May include provision of a dog off-leash area depending on distribution of other dog off-leash areas in the area and size of park.	Provision of a dog off-leash area in select district parks.	Provision of a dog off-leash area in suitable sites.	
<b>Synthetic soft fall under play equipment</b>	Minimal use of synthetic surfaces.	May include areas of synthetic surfaces.	Likely to include facilities with synthetic surfaces.	

## Appendix 3 – Mitchell Open Space Strategy pages 58-63 (continued)

Appendix 4. Standards for the provision, design and maintenance of open space.

Social/Family Recreation				
Characteristic	Checklist	Local	District	Shire Wide
<b>Facilities and Structures</b>	<b>Provision of lighting</b>	May include security lighting dependent on activity.	Provision of pathway lights for some night activities where site is suitable.	Provision of lights for some night activities.
	<b>Fencing</b>	When a selection of parks in one neighbourhood, fence a suitable site. If play equipment is to be fenced ensure a large area of open space is contained inside the fence.	Selective fencing.	Selective fencing as required.
	<b>Non-recreational structures such as substations, environmental monitoring stations, and emergency service structures</b>	Non-recreational structures such as substations, environmental monitoring stations, and emergency service structures and storage should not be located on local social/family recreation open space. Site in other types of land or in road verges to be located underground.	Non-recreational structures such as substations, environmental monitoring stations, and emergency service structures and storage to be located underground or at edge of an open space if compensation is paid.	Non-recreational structures such as substations, environmental monitoring stations, and emergency service structures and storage to be located underground or at edge of open space if compensation is paid.
	<b>Tree planting</b>	Provide boundary, shade and amenity planting as a priority. Minimised dense vegetation that blocks casual surveillance (between 0.7m and 2.4m above the ground).	Provide boundary, shade and amenity planting as a priority.	Provide boundary, shade and amenity planting as a priority. Extensive planting of trees or multiple storeys to create areas of denser vegetation.
<b>Design</b>	<b>Range of age groups</b>	Provides facilities that cater to a range of abilities and age groups.	Provides a wider range of facilities that cater to a range of abilities and age groups.	Provides a wider range of facilities that cater to a range of abilities and age groups. Provide some dedicated facilities for teenagers and older adults.
	<b>Range of activities</b>	Includes areas for cooperative play and games, some props and range of surfaces, kick about space, loose materials/contact with nature, equipment for exercise, areas with places to hide and retreat from activity, screened from boisterous play.	Includes areas for cooperative play and games, some props and range of surfaces, kick about space, loose materials/contact with nature, equipment for exercise, areas with places to hide and retreat from activity, screened from boisterous play.	Includes areas for cooperative play and games, some props and range of surfaces, kick about space, loose materials/contact with nature, equipment for exercise, areas with places to hide and retreat from activity, screened from boisterous play.
	<b>Solar access</b>	Areas of sun and shade, not to be directly overshadowed by adjoining multi-storey buildings.  For parks of 1ha, desirably multistorey buildings to be set back not immediately abutting the park.	Areas of sun and shade, not to be directly overshadowed by adjoining multi-storey buildings. Multistorey building set back from park edge.	Areas of sun and shade, not to be directly overshadowed by adjoining multi-storey buildings.

## Appendix 3 – Mitchell Open Space Strategy pages 58-63 (continued)

Appendix 4. Standards for the provision, design and maintenance of open space.

Social/Family Recreation				
Characteristic	Checklist	Local	District	Shire Wide
<b>Design</b>	<b>Views into the space and proximity to residences, schools, hospitals, employment areas</b>	Good views into the space. Views out of the space preferably beyond the immediate residences and visible from neighbouring streets, schools and other buildings.  Consider proximity to major community facilities.	Good views into and out of the space preferably beyond the immediate residences and visible from neighbouring streets, schools and other buildings.  Consider proximity to or co-location with major community facilities.	Good views into and out of the space preferably beyond the immediate residences and visible from neighbouring streets, schools and other buildings.  Consider proximity to or co-location with major community facilities.
	<b>Not immediately adjoining private rear yards</b>	Not immediately adjoining private rear yards.  Street frontages on at least two sides, and be separated by a road from overlooking houses.	Not immediately adjoining private rear yards.  Street frontages on all sides, and be separated by a road from overlooking houses.	Not immediately adjoining private rear yards.
	<b>Landscape plan requirements/permit conditions</b>	Specify proposed open space function type, landscape setting and catchment.	Specify proposed open space function type, landscape setting and catchment.	Specify proposed open space function type, landscape setting and catchment.
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>Appropriate grass/tree species</b>	Use hard wearing grass species to minimise need for irrigation.  Minimise areas mowed, through planting of hardy flowing plants and trees.	Use hard wearing grass species minimise water requirements.  Minimise areas mowed, through planting of hardy flowing plants and trees.  Spaces of significant local value for flora.	To use hard wearing grass species to minimise need for irrigation.  Minimise areas mowed, through planting of hardy flowing plants and trees.
	<b>Emergency and maintenance vehicle access</b>	Emergency and maintenance vehicle access avoids sports turf, formed paths and synthetic surfaces.	Defined emergency and maintenance vehicle access avoids sports turf, formed paths and synthetic surfaces.	Defined emergency and maintenance vehicle access avoids sports turf, formed paths and synthetic surfaces.
	<b>Irrigation</b>	No irrigation required unless there is multiple spaces in a neighbourhood then irrigate one space.	Include some areas of irrigated green lawn. Irrigate with recycled or harvested water.	Could include considerable areas under irrigation, using recycled or harvested water.
	<b>Regularity of maintenance</b>	Every 3 weeks.	Every 3 weeks.	Every 3 weeks.
	<b>Rubbish collection</b>	Rubbish collection service to be provided unless designated as an environmental reserve, where visitors advised to take rubbish home.	Rubbish collection service to be provided unless designated as an environmental reserve, where visitors advised to take rubbish home.	Rubbish collection service to be provided unless designated as an environmental reserve, where visitors advised to take rubbish home.

## Appendix 4 Play Australia – Play needs of children



### PLAY NEEDS OF CHILDREN

This developmental perspective on planning outdoor play spaces is a guide only. Children need to be observed to indicate their individual needs and skill levels and to have environments modified or equipment provided to meet those needs.

#### 0-2 YEAR OLDS

##### 0 - 12 months

- become upright and mobile
- enjoy 1:1 interactions with an adult
- become aware of sensory stimuli sounds and movement
- begin to sit, crawl, and stand up;
- learn to clamber over low objects
- copy adult's actions
- attention focuses on simple events e.g. wind in the trees

##### 12 months - 2 years

- increasingly upright and more active
- enjoy:
  - > imitative play/pretend animal play
  - > throwing but with little control
  - > climbing in and through
  - > filling, emptying and carrying
  - > toppling, pulling and pushing
  - > learning meaningful words
  - > playing in sandpits
  - > pushing trolleys and wheeling prams
  - > and collecting things

##### Play area required:

- Babies and toddlers require playspaces which offer challenge and excitement, and activities appropriate for their stage of development
- Toddlers need level spaces clear of trip hazards to run and move, given that they have little control when running and little sense of direction so they are more likely to bump into obstacles;
- Careful layout of equipment is essential given that young children are less able to forecast consequences. For example, they may move into the path of a swing as they don't understand that it will return
- Babies and toddlers learn through sensory exploration and many materials are mouthed. Grass is therefore a safer surface than bark or mulch and is also safe enough for any 'tumbles' as falls are basically ground level

**Note:** All children are vulnerable in the outdoor environment to UV radiation from the sun. Extreme care and careful planning of both the environment and the program is essential to ensure children's safety. Babies and toddlers particularly require quality shade provision in outdoor playspaces.

## Appendix 4 Play Australia – Play needs of children (continued)

### 2-YEARS

- are establishing autonomy, they want to be independent but still want an adult close by
- use aggression (hitting, pushing, biting) to try to solve problems
- engage in parallel play i.e. side by side with another child
- often move as a group - all into the sand pit, then all on the climbing structure
- are developing imitative role play - mothers and fathers
- are refining locomotor skills - walking action develops and they can now run
- enjoy physical play - climbing, chasing balls and balloons, rolling, kicking and throwing balls, walking up and down steps, and can manage a small slide
- use wheeled toys
- enjoy manipulating small objects and filling containers; are interested in birds, insects, flowers and animals

#### Play area required:

- Level, grassy areas where mats can be spread and children can crawl in comfort, scramble and pull themselves up and which provides a soft landing for early walkers. Older children can use this area for running and chasing bubbles
- Some smooth pathways with non-abrasive surfacing are needed for wheeled toys.(children will have lots of falls)
- Planting to provide sensory experiences such as smell, listening to leaves, feeling different textures of foliage and opportunities for children to enter and explore. This needs to be primarily low-growing, so children can see care givers easily when seated
- Overhead structure (pergola or tree) for hanging mobiles or wind chimes
- Some gentle slopes will add to interest and help develop physical skills
- Flat surfaces for setting up tables and chairs and dolls beds
- Small sand pit for one or two children as well as a larger one for the whole group
- Small swings, recognising that children will still run in front of and behind moving swings
- Climbing area with soft-fall and movable equipment
- Alcove areas landscaped into gardens or fences where small groups can play
- Frequent perching areas for adults to sit with children or with small groups for songs, conversations, to discuss a creature found in the garden or simply to be close enough to respond to children's needs without intruding in their play
- Enclosures for pets

### 3-5 YEARS

#### 3 years

- are beginning to interact and will engage in basic socio-dramatic play for short periods, and focus on domestic play
- can use wheel toys with pedals
- enjoy climbing and often uses this as a measure of self (look at me!)
- can manage a small slide
- enjoy sand and water
- can pour and fill
- enjoy hauling - filling bags and baskets and removing contents to another place or simply carrying it around

#### 4 years

- can share and negotiate
- are inquisitive
- test adult limits
- direct most language to other children
- include violence in play

## Appendix 4 Play Australia – Play needs of children (continued)

- show interest in natural science and how things work
- play more fantasy and abstract socio-dramatic play themes
- have basic ball skills of throwing, catching and hitting with bat
- can participate in group games and activities

### 5 years

- like to help and do real work
- prefer co-operative play
- are physically poised and controlled
- like to test out skills and do stunts
- experience change in physical skills - girls develop precision/boys develop speed and strength
- enjoy fact finding and collating information
- value group acceptance
- enjoy constructions and models that are realistic
- end-product is now important
- master ball games
- enjoy games with rules

### Play Area Required:

- A variety of levels and different ways of getting up and down
- A variety of surfacing materials
- Flat surfaces suitable for large block constructions
- Small areas for 2-4 children to play with sensory materials or imaginative play props
- Variety of climbing, sliding, swinging equipment on impact absorbing surfaces. This activity will take up a reasonably large space. Movable equipment is preferred
- A large grassed area is valuable for free running, ball and other organised games
- Smaller areas for groups of 3-6 children to work together on co-operative play projects and for dramatic play
- Low growing plants which create barriers, pathways and private spaces for small group play or for music, drama, science or language experiences to happen outdoors
- A large sandpit and a separate digging patch, both with water available where groups of children can work together on play projects
- Views of the outside world and what is happening within the local area
- Spaces to ride bikes
- Natural environments to provide cubby, camping play opportunities where children feel can play alone - as well as attracting birds and insects to provide a range of sensory experiences throughout the year
- An amphitheatre for whole group gatherings, drama, gymnastics or circus performances
- Vegetable and herb gardens and animal enclosures

## Appendix 4 Play Australia – Play needs of children (continued)

### 6-8 YEARS

Children at this age are continuing to refine fundamental movement skills. They are in need of flexible space to engage in both boisterous activity and quieter small or individual group experiences after a day of classroom participation.

- Climb confidently, want to master new skills and are prepared to take risks
- Manage ball games of kicking, batting and catching a ball
- Enjoy games with rules but have difficulty losing
- Are energetic and active, can run or walk for long periods, find sitting more tiring than running
- Consider peer group important - cliques or clubs often form but prefer own gender
- Have increased interest in the world around them
- Enjoy group activities and are able to play co-operatively
- Use adults as supporters rather than carers

#### Play Area Required:

- Climbing equipment
- Gymnastic type attachments - trapeze swings, horizontal ladders or Roman Rings
- Staging areas for dramatisations and competitions
- Space for team games
- Space and equipment for “real” work

### 8 -12 YEARS

Children at this age are increasing in their interest in competition, sport and energetic activity. They are in need of flexible space to engage in both boisterous activity and quieter small or individual group experiences.

#### Play Area Required:

- Challenging climbing equipment
- Challenging gymnastic type equipment
- Space for team games
- Space for quiet activity

Playgrounds which provide a satisfying range of settings for play for students of different ages and interests are likely to reduce the number of conflicts. Children are likely to be easier to manage, vandalism is likely to be reduced, and the positive spin-offs include benefits to the students' self image and to the image of the school in general.

When planning contemporary play spaces, it is important to provide play experiences that will enable all children to play together.

Barbara Champion  
Executive Director

## Appendix 5 – References

### **Mitchell Shire Council documents**

Council Plan 2013-2017 (revised 2014)  
Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017  
Integrated Community Services and Infrastructure Plan 2013  
Mitchell Open Space Strategy 2013-2023  
Mitchell Shire Council Environment Strategy 2014-2024  
Early Years Plan 2012-16  
Access and Inclusion disAbility Plan 2013-2017  
Youth Strategy 2014-2017  
Asset Management Policy 2015  
Asset Management Strategy 2015  
Infrastructure Asset Management Plan – Parks and Open Space 2012  
Sustainable Resource Management Strategy 2011

### **Legislation**

#### Commonwealth

Disability Discrimination Act 1992  
Disability (Access to Premises- Buildings) Standards 2010

#### Victorian

Crown Lands (Reserves) Act 1978  
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004  
Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006

### **Regulations, Codes, Australian Standards and Guidelines**

AS 4685:2014 Playground equipment and surfacing (noting that for Parts 1-6, AS 4685 – 2004 can apply until 24 April 2015) -

Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods (EN 1176-1:2008, MOD)  
Part 2: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for swings (EN 1176-2:2008, MOD)  
Part 3: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for slides (EN 1176-3:2008, MOD)  
Part 4: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for cableways (EN 1176-4:2008, MOD)  
Part 5: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for carousels (EN 1176-5:2008, MOD)  
Part 6: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment (EN 1176-6:2008)  
Part 11: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for spatial network (EN 1176-11:2008)

AS/NZS 4422 Playground surfacing – Specifications, requirements and test method

AS 1428 Design for Access and Mobility

## Appendix 5 – References (continued)

AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk management – Principles and guidelines

Australian Human Rights Commission Advisory note on streetscapes, public outdoor areas, fixtures, fittings and furniture (2013)

Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia –

International Infrastructure Management Manual (2011)

Parks management: Inventories, condition and performance grading Practice Note 10.1 (2014)

### Other documents, information and research

.id – Mitchell Shire Population and Household Forecast (updated 2015)

City of Whitehorse - Whitehorse Play Space Strategy 2011

City of Greater Bendigo Play Space Strategy 2009-2014

Hume City Council - Playspace Planning Framework and Reference Guide 2012

City of Whittlesea - Playspace Planning Framework and Policy 2013-16

Play Australia (previously PRAV - Playgrounds and Recreation Association Victoria) resources –

Play Area Development Policy for Local Government

Play and the Learning Process

Play Needs of Children

Childs play, particularly when it takes place in the great outdoors, is a treasure chest of opportunities

Fencing and Public Playspaces

Fencing (from the Good Playspace Guide)

How Did We Survive?

Dogs and Play Spaces

Bike Paths

Shade and Sun Protection

Play England –

Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide (2008)

Design for Play – A Guide to Creating Successful Play Spaces (2008)

Playable Space Quality Assessment Tool (2009)

Policy Briefing 6 Managing Risk in Play Provision (2009)

Nature Play Maintenance Guide (2009)

Australian Government, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (2009) BELONGING, BEING & BECOMING, The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

Victorian State Government, in conjunction with PRAV (2007) The Good Play Space Guide: I Can Play Too

Growth Areas Authority Victoria (now Melbourne Planning Authority) Precinct Structure Plan Guidelines

Australian Social and Recreation Research Pty Ltd (2008) Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas

Cancer Council of Victoria –

Outdoor play the SunSmart way!

## Appendix 5 – References (continued)

SunSmart – Shade Guidelines (2013)

SunSmart – Sun Protection for babies and toddlers

Department for Communities and Local Government (United Kingdom) –

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2006)

Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Comparison Guide to Planning Policy Guidance 17

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990) Article 31

Child Accident Prevention Trust (United Kingdom) - Urban myths about children's playgrounds

London Sustainable Development Commission – Children and Nature (2011)

Tony Hall, Griffith University – The Death of the Australian Backyard – A Lesson for Canberra

Sue Elliott and Julie Davis – Mud Pies and Daisy Chains (2003)

Jenene Burke, University of Ballarat – Enabling Play: Inside accounts of disabled children's playworlds in accessible playgrounds

Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth – Action for Young Australians Report – Parks and Open Space: for the health and wellbeing of children and young people (2009)



BEVERIDGE, WALLAN, UPPER  
ENTY, CLONBINANE, HEATHCO  
UNCTION, WANDONG, BYLANDS  
RBES, KILMORE, KILMORE EAST  
ERFORD PARK, SUNDAY CREEK  
RANDING, WILLOWMAVIN, HIGH  
AMP, NULLA VALE, GLENAROUA  
SUGARLOAF CREEK, HILDENE,  
AROOK, TRAWOOL, WHITEHEAD  
EAK, SEYMOUR, PUCKAPUNYA  
GHLANDS, TARCOMBE, NORTH  
HWOOD, TOOBORAC, GLENHOLM  
HOPE EAST, MIA MIA, HEATHCOTE  
H BROADFORD, WALLAN, UP

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