

# Draft Play and Open Space Strategy

## Background

Council adopted a Draft Play and Open Space Strategy during its Ordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday June 18, 2024.

A comprehensive Play and Open Space Strategy assists in guiding Council to address the diverse needs of our community by enhancing access to play spaces, promoting active lifestyles, and fostering social interaction while also preserving and enhancing our natural environment.

The draft Play and Open Space Strategy 2024-2034 identifies five key design and management principles. The play and open space principles will guide the development and renewal of spaces for Council, community groups, and developers in the Shire. These design considerations establish the minimum design standards for all new and upgraded play and open spaces and will also support the management and maintenance of new and existing spaces over the next 10 years in the Shire.

The five (5) guiding principles are as follows:

- Principle 1: Safe, Accessible and Inclusive;
- Principle 2: Good Quality and Well Planned;
- Principle 3: Low maintenance and Sustainable;
- Principle 4: Consistent with the unique character of the location and informed by the community; and
- Principle 5: Integrate Artwork and celebrate the natural environment.

The strategy will not be looking at Council's recreation reserves or walking and cycling spaces; these will be considered in separate strategies namely:

- Strathbogie Shire Council Active and Connected Cycling and Walking Strategy 2024–2034; and the
- Strathbogie Shire Council Draft Sport and Recreation Strategy 2024-2035.

Encumbered open space which includes easements for power/transmission lines, road reserves, sewers, gas, waterways/drainage, retarding basins/wetlands, conservation, wildlife corridors, and heritage areas will not be considered as part of this strategy.

## The Engagement Approach

Community engagement has been undertaken in two stages to help develop the Strategy. A separate consultation regarding the Seven Creeks Master Plan is also underway. The master plan will be added as an appendix to the Play and Open Space Strategy.

### Stage 1 – ideas generation

This has included discussion with Council's Community Panel, our Share Strathbogie Engagement Hub, a social media campaign, officer representation at local markets and engagement with kindergarten and school aged children. In addition, a separate engagement project was

undertaken via our youth development team with specific consultation with our 12 – 21 year old cohort.

### Stage 2 – written submissions on draft strategy

Submissions were invited to the Draft Play and Open Space Strategy during a 28-day public exhibition period from June 19 to 5pm July 17, 2024. Submissions could be made online at [www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au), by mail or via email.

Community members were informed about the opportunity to provide input through website content, social media posts, Council eNews, and information in the Council column in local newspapers.

**Depth:** Consult

**Public participation goal:** To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.

**Promise to the public:** We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

### Participation and reach

- 3 submissions were received to the Draft Play and Open Space Strategy
- 86 views were recorded to the project page on Share Strathbogie
- 39 downloads of the Draft Play and Open Space Strategy were recorded

### What our community told us

Consideration for additional play spaces in Strathbogie Tablelands outside of the Strathbogie township
Revise the Strategy to properly audit the current accessibility and inclusion of all elements of Council-managed Play and Open Spaces
Establish a community panel of residents with diverse lived experience of disability who can provide expertise, on an honorarium basis, to inform access and inclusion planning for all Council-managed capital works projects, including Play and Open Spaces
Strathbogie Shire Council to review the play Space and Open Space hierarchies in favour of an approach that does not discriminate against smaller communities in the provision of essential Play and Open Space infrastructure.
Strathbogie Shire Council identify mechanisms by which communities may commence investigation of potential sites for future off-leash dog parks in partnership with Council, before the adoption of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP)
Associated technical report only identifies one playground to be decommissioned

### Recommendations

Refer to the Council Report for the details of Councils response to the community and advice on any amendments to the Play and Open Space Strategy 2024-2034.

