

spiire

Moira Shire Play Strategy





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Moira Shire Acknowledgment of County

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and pay our respects to their Elders both past and present. We also acknowledge and celebrate dates on the Indigenous calendar, providing support and engagement initiatives to community groups, schools and organisations to host events and activities.

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01.Glossary

The Glossary outlines key terms used in the Play Strategy

TERM	DEFINITION
Accessible	Environments that are inviting regardless of level of ability
Inclusive	Aiming to provide equal access to opportunities and elements for people who might otherwise be excluded
Sensory	Relating to sensation or physical senses
Amenities	A desirable or useful feature or facility of a place
Children	Children aged 0 - 12
Community	Moirā Shire Council's residents and visitors
CPTED	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
Liveability	The degree to which a place is suitable or good in which to live
Natural Materials	Materials in their natural state such as sand, rocks and timber logs
Nature Play	Play that occurs in the natural environment, and/or interacting with natural materials
Open Space	Outdoor spaces without built structures that are publicly accessible
Passive Surveillance	An environment where people can see and be seen through casual observation
Play equipment	Formal structures designed specifically for play such as swings and slides
Play space	An area that provides a range of play experiences including play equipment, natural play elements, and run-about spaces
Recreation	An activity done for enjoyment
Structured play	Activity that is undertaken for fun but has set 'instructions' or 'rules'
Unstructured play	Activity that is determined by the individual child and has no set 'rules' or direction from adults
Universal design	Design that encourages use by people of all abilities and ages



02.Executive Summary

Play is critical in the development of children. Play nurtures growth that supports the health and resilience of children, leading to connected and holistic communities.

Moirā Shire's Community Vision is committed to a connected, healthy and inclusive community, of towns, regions and natural spaces creating a sustainable lifestyle. Access to quality play spaces for the Moirā Shire community will support the realisation of the Community Vision.

As children grow, they require a variety of play opportunities that provide challenges and experiences that develop their cognitive, physical, emotional and social skills. Play that encourages interaction, exploration, risk taking and having fun, particularly in outdoor settings, enables development of children and fosters a connected, healthy and inclusive community.

The Moirā Shire Play Strategy underpins Council's current and future investment in play spaces across the Shire.

The Strategy outlines an analysis of existing playgrounds in the four major towns, being Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah and Yarrawonga, as well as playgrounds in the Shire's smaller communities. Existing playgrounds in the Shire vary in quality, play value and usage. Whilst a few playgrounds in the Shire have been recently upgraded and provide quality play value, the majority of playgrounds offer limited variety, accessibility or associated amenities.

Council classifies playgrounds as regional, town or local playgrounds. The Strategy outlines this hierarchy of playgrounds in more detail and defines the difference between 'playground' and 'play space' with a view to improved play provision throughout the Shire. Establishing a clear hierarchy of play provision strengthens Council's direction for rationalisation, amalgamation and/or upgrading play areas and associated assets. This aims to ensure there is equitable distribution of play spaces throughout the Shire to provide the community with reasonable access to a variety of meaningful play opportunities.

The Strategy intends to support a greater understanding of the importance of thoughtful and considered design of play spaces to create holistic, cohesive and connected play areas and parklands. There is significant opportunity throughout the Shire to create diversity of play offerings that encourage formal and informal play and respond to the unique urban, agricultural and riverine environments of Moirā Shire.

The locations of playgrounds in the main towns and smaller communities varies from urban/residential locations, riverfront parklands and recreation reserves. These locations present Council and the community with great opportunity to provide high play value for children which promote a sense of place and support community interaction.

Whilst a few play areas within the Shire have been recently improved, the Strategy recommends a series of actions in relation to current playgrounds.

The actions for existing playgrounds include one or more of the following recommendations:

- Updating the hierarchy based on findings of the analysis
- Creation of an entirely new play space
- Upgrading existing playgrounds
- Maintaining existing play areas (particularly those which have recently been upgraded, considering minor modifications for improvements)
- Considering an end of life review and/or decommission where the existing playground requires upgrading or provision of a new play space, or where the playground is identified for removal.

Design guidelines for creation of play spaces are also outlined in the Strategy. These offer a range of principles to guide Council and qualified play space designers to consider and include in play spaces throughout the Shire. The principles outlined in the guidelines demonstrate best practice in play space design and shall be adhered to in the design and installation of new play spaces and also in any upgrades or modifications to existing play spaces.

While supporting recent improvements to the provision of play in the Shire, the recommendations and design guidelines establish a clear guide for Council and the community to expand the offering of high value play spaces and high quality play experiences for the community and visitors of Moirā Shire.





Introduction

The Moira Shire Play Strategy is a guiding document for Council to make informed decisions in relation to play provision and to support proactive investment in play spaces throughout the Shire.

Moira Shire includes more than 70 parks or reserves which contain play equipment, located in Council parks, recreation reserves and showgrounds, childcare centres and swimming pool areas. These include a broad range of playgrounds and equipment, many of which have limited play opportunities and are underutilised.

The Strategy will support Council's commitment to achieving a more holistic and considered approach to funding, management and development of play spaces across the Shire.

03.Introduction

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Play Strategy is to provide a guiding document to underpin and determine Council's current and future investment in play spaces across the Shire.

The primary objectives of the Play Strategy are as follows:

- Map and categorise existing playgrounds within Moira Shire to determine service levels and access requirements, which includes:
 - Analysis of current playgrounds
 - Mapping of current playgrounds according to residential proximity and overall array across the various townships within the Shire
 - Confirmation of a hierarchy of play spaces to determine development and maintenance obligations.
- Rationalise current 'playground' assets to ensure best

value and access for residents, including identifying opportunities for amalgamation and upgrading.

- Determine the future provision for playgrounds across the Shire including new playgrounds and the development of existing playgrounds, including:
 - Developing criteria for the development of new playgrounds
 - Outlining high level design guidelines including all abilities and universal access requirements.

The Strategy provides recommendations for the provision of play across the Shire based on Council's work to date and its current initiatives and priorities.

Playgrounds provided by other organisations such as schools, kindergartens and day care centres have been excluded from this Strategy. The Strategy does not cover skate parks, swimming pools or other Council facilities not identified in the Strategy.

Moira Shire Council Strategies And Plans

Relevant Council Strategies and Plans were reviewed and considered during the development of the Play Strategy.

The Play Strategy aligns with Council's strategic directions through recommendations and design guidelines for play in Moira Shire. Through considered design and implementation, play spaces will support community health, social and environmental responsibilities, and contribute to the local economy through patronage by the community and visitors.

Moira Community Vision 2021

In 2035 the Moira Shire is a connected, healthy, educated and inclusive community of towns, regions, businesses and natural spaces including the best features of the Murray River. We have a sustainable lifestyle which protects the environment and enables business opportunities. Our Shire celebrates our cultural and indigenous heritage and embraces our future as a community in which to live, visit and stay. Our community is enabled and supported by a progressive, consultative, accountable, transparent and responsive Council.

Relevant Council Strategies and Plans include the following:

- Community Vision 2021
- Moira Shire Council Plan 2021 – 2025
- Moira Shire Council Recreation Strategy 2016 – 2026
- Moira Shire Wellbeing for All Ages Strategy 2021 – 2025
- Moira Shire Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017 – 2021
- Municipal Emergency Management Plan
- Arts and Culture Strategy 2020 – 2026
- Moira Shire Community Plans
- Recreation Strategy 2016 – 2026
- Community Safety Strategy 2016 – 2021
- Recreation Vehicle Friendly Strategy
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2017
- Economic Development Strategy 2019 – 2023
- Overall Asset Management Plan 2020
- Asset Management Policy and Strategy
- Community Asset Committee Operations Manual

Snapshot Of Moira Shire

Moira Shire's location in north central Victoria provides a unique regional setting covering 4,045 square kilometres.

The Shire is bounded by the Murray River in the north, Ovens River in the east and Goulburn River in the southeast. The region is a major fruit, dairying and beef district with growing tourism and manufacturing sectors.

Moira Shire includes four major towns, being Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah and Yarrawonga. The Shire has 21 smaller communities being Barmah, Bearii, Bundalong, Burramine, Invergordon, Kaarimba, Katamatite, Katunga, Koonoomoo, Kotupna, Lake Rowan, Picola, St James, Strathmerton, Tungamah, Waaia, Wilby, Wunghnu, Yabba North, Yalca and Yarroweyah. Smaller communities which do not have playgrounds identified by Council for this strategy are Kaarimba, Koonoomoo, Kotupna, Lake Rowan, Yabba North and Yalca.

Moira's population in June 2021 was 30,351 and is expected to be 32,334 in 2031. The median age of people living in Moira was 48 years, while the most common cohort of people is 60-69 years. Children aged between 0 – 9 years comprise 10.4% of the population, while those aged 10 – 19 years is 11.4%. The forecast population by age group for Preschool (0 – 4) and School Age (5 – 14) is 16.4% (5,316) in 2031.

While these statistics provide a snapshot of the Shire, Moira is a popular holiday destination which sees the population increase during peak holiday seasons.

04. What is Play?

“

Children are the foundation of the world's future.

Children have played at all times throughout history and in all cultures.

Play, along with the basic needs of nutrition, health, shelter and education, is vital to develop the potential of all children.

Play is communication and expression, combining thought and action; it gives satisfaction and a feeling of achievement.

Play is instinctive, voluntary, and spontaneous.

Play helps children develop physically, mentally, emotionally and socially.

Play is a means of learning to live, not a mere passing of time.

”

International Play Association



05. The Importance of Play

The value of play is widely accepted as mandatory in childhood development and significantly enhances growth of children. Play spaces that are well designed and appealing, to children, young people and adults, provide a variety of opportunities for growth and development.

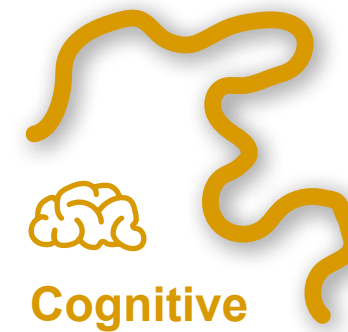
Growth in cognitive, physical, emotional and social skills are fostered through a wide variety of play opportunities that encourage interaction, exploration, risk taking and having fun, particularly in an outdoor setting. This growth supports healthy and resilient children and is necessary for connected and holistic communities.

Access to quality play spaces for the Moira Shire community is influenced by the concentration of urban areas in the major towns, the geographical locations and population size of the smaller communities and the physical distance to playgrounds for many Shire residents.

Changes to community needs, local climate and population need to be considered in the provision of play value for the Moira community. Play spaces and access to them must respond to environmental change and provide play opportunities that cater for children with a broad spectrum needs and/or disorders. Accessibility for children and their carers is paramount in design and implementation of play provision throughout the Shire.

The types of play which support childhood growth and development are outlined further on the following page.

Types of Play



Cognitive

Cognitive development includes mental processes, thinking, learning, and understanding. This is achieved through play that promotes thinking and information processing, problem solving and decision-making. Growth in knowledge helps children understand their environment.

Play space components which support cognitive development include the following:

- Sensory play experiences including access to sand, water and plants/vegetation
- Interactive panels and musical instruments
- Natural areas for exploration and observation of living things and fallen vegetation
- Language and listening skills for communication such as speaker tubes
- Mechanical equipment that shows cause and effect
- Spaces for outdoor games
- Elements that allow for unstructured and informal play to foster creativity



Physical

Physical development involves growth and changes in the body and brain, senses, motor skills, and health and wellness. This is achieved through movement, where fine motor skills are developed such as using hands and fingers to pick up things, and gross motor skills are developed through activities such as running and climbing. Physical movement also develops hand eye coordination, agility and balance.

Stores of energy are used during physical movement which has the capacity to improve eating and sleeping habits of children.

Play space components which support physical development include the following:

- Monkey bars, climbing frames and ladders (support gross motor skills)
- Balance opportunities (beams, logs, rope bridges), swinging, bouncing, crawling (slopes), experiencing height (towers), slides, spinning and rocking
- Connecting paths or access ways that encourage scooters, bikes and hard surface games such as hopscotch
- Connected open grass areas that encourage running, ball play and kickabout



Social

Social (and psychosocial) development involves emotions, personality, self-esteem and relationships. This is achieved through communication and interaction with other children (and adults) through play. Learning to cooperate, take risks, compromise, establish self-control and being aware of the feelings and needs of others promote social growth and development.

Play space components which support social development include the following:

- Elements that encourage cooperation and sharing
- Spaces for group activities and group seating
- Role play elements such as window/shop counters, cubbies, steering wheels, boats or cars
- Equipment that caters to group use such as spinners and basket swings
- Equipment that promotes sharing and taking turns such as a flying fox

Age Specific Development

Growing children require a variety of play opportunities to meet their change and growth in development.

Whilst every play space may not provide suitable and engaging play opportunities for every child's age and stage of development, play spaces require thoughtful design to ensure provision of challenges and experiences for which age group the play space is being aimed.

Design must consider play elements and experiences that support cognitive, physical and social development for the target age group or a range of age groups. Whilst catering for a broad range of age groups may be more achievable in larger play spaces, the design of each play space shall aim to offer play opportunities, challenges and experiences that cater for a range of developmental stages.

Play Australia provides a general guide that identifies

childhood developmental stages and associated requirements for play during stages of development. Design of play spaces shall also consider that children grow and develop differently and their needs for play will continually change.

This Strategy focusses on provision of play for children aged 0 – 12 years old given this age group is the main users of Council play spaces. It is essential, however, to acknowledge that teenagers and adults will utilise the play spaces as carers and guardians of young children and for their own recreation and play experiences. For example gathering spaces for social interaction, or using swings and slides. Quality equipment needs to withstand use by teenagers and adults.

The design of play spaces shall also consider and provide for the needs of adults in terms of their requirements whilst engaging in play spaces with children (such as accessibility for prams, seating, tables, shade, visibility across the space and assisting children on equipment).

Playground or Play Space?

The Play Strategy distinguishes the difference between a 'playground' and a 'play space'.

Playground

A 'playground' is comprised of formal play equipment elements, such as play units with slides, towers and ladders, and supplemented with other play equipment items such as swings and rockers.

A typical playground in Moira Shire is generally a few items of play equipment located in a soft fall mulch area surrounded by a raised timber edge. There is often limited supporting infrastructure such as seats, shade and connecting paths.

Play Space

A 'play space' is an area designated for play that provides a holistic, cohesive and connected arrangement of play opportunities. A play space encourages growth and learning in cognitive, physical and social skills through a diverse variety of spaces and elements that respond effectively to the local environment, place and the site itself.

Play can occur in a structured way (such as play equipment) and in unstructured ways (such as natural play areas including logs, rocks, water, sand, beneath trees and in garden areas).

Connectivity between play elements and open grassed spaces also encourages broader interaction with the parkland areas and alternative play opportunities. Play spaces provide accessible, connected and unified areas for play that are supplemented with required facilities and comfort such as tree planting that provides shade, connecting pathways, seating which considers solar aspect of seasonal change and views, and safety for users.

The Moira Play Strategy endeavours to demonstrate the opportunities for improvements to play value throughout the Shire in the form of 'play spaces'. These improvements aim to encourage community interaction through spending time outside for unstructured play in natural settings.

The Strategy also provides design guidelines to illustrate best practice design to ensure future play spaces in Moira Shire are accessible, equitable, welcoming, and suitable for social and physical activity for target users. Quality design and implementation will promote healthy and liveable communities.

06. Play in Moira Shire

“

Places exist at the heart of our neighbourhoods and should cater for everyone – young and old, families and carers, and people of all abilities.

Play spaces should be welcoming and comfortable, easy to navigate and interesting.

They should offer a range of physical challenges, a variety of landscape settings and provide opportunities to connect with others.

”

Everyone Can Play
NSW Government 2019

Moira Shire comprises a number of playgrounds in the four major towns and in a number of its smaller communities. An assessment of each of the playgrounds has been undertaken in terms of location mapping, play value provided and associated amenity such as accessibility, seating and shade.

Council are continually upgrading playgrounds to provide quality play value across the Shire. Some playgrounds offer limited variety, accessibility or associated amenities. These are generally simple spaces with limited pieces of playground equipment surrounded in soft fall mulch.

Many playgrounds are fenced, either within the immediate proximity of the equipment and mulch area, or a little further away. Whilst there is value in fencing playgrounds for safety of children near potential risk, there is opportunity to reconsider fencing to achieve connectivity with adjacent parkland spaces and create more holistic play spaces.

The location of playgrounds also varies from urban/residential locations, riverfront parklands and recreation reserves. This variety of locations offers playgrounds within proximity of residential areas, access to high value environments and in locations where community gathering, sport and other events take place.



07. Play Space Hierarchy

What is Play Space Hierarchy?

Moirā Shire currently categorises playgrounds as Regional, Town and Local playgrounds.

Council's current descriptions of Playground hierarchy are as follows:

Regional Playgrounds

- These play spaces are generally larger, or with a specific target user group and they are surrounded by a high level of supporting infrastructure such as toilets, picnic areas, BBQ's etc.

Town Playgrounds

- These play spaces may be small or large and are surrounded by supporting infrastructure such as toilet facilities, BBQ's etc.

Local Playgrounds

- Local play spaces are small parks generally in residential areas that may have supporting infrastructure like seating but they do not have major infrastructure like toilets.

Following evaluation of existing play areas in Moira, the Strategy seeks to redefine the playground hierarchy to strengthen Council's direction for rationalisation, amalgamation and/or upgrading of playgrounds and associated assets.

The Strategy aims to advance equitable distribution of play spaces throughout the Shire and to ensure that everyone in the community has reasonable access to a variety of meaningful play opportunities.

Given the population distribution throughout Moira is across urban and rural areas, in major towns and smaller communities, playgrounds are often co-located with community facilities and gathering spaces such as recreation reserves, visitor rest stops and local swimming pools. The Strategy acknowledges that these facilities provide additional amenities within proximity to play areas and any recommendations for improvements to play spaces shall take the supporting infrastructure into account.





08.Mapping Existing Play Spaces

Location, Hierarchy and Distribution

To gain an appreciation of the geographical distribution of playgrounds and their current hierarchy in Moira, each identified playground has been mapped. The mapping describes the names and locations of each playground, their hierarchy and catchment radius. Each playground has been considered in terms of its location within a park or within a recreation reserve.

The mapping designates catchments for each of the playgrounds, being a 40km radius for Regional playgrounds, 1km radius for Town playgrounds and 500m radius for Local playgrounds.

Each of the four major towns have been mapped individually, while the smaller communities have been shown on one Shire map.

Further discussion in relation to the mapping and playground provision for each of the major towns and the Shire are outlined below.



Cobram

Cobram is currently well serviced by playgrounds in terms of quantity and catchment. There is scope to consider quality of play experience currently offered.

Cobram is home to one Regional Play space (Federation Park), five town playgrounds and six local playgrounds.

The town playgrounds in Cobram are located in urban areas and at the Murray River frontage. Thompsons Beach/Kennedy Park is identified as one site. A town level playground is located at Thompsons Beach.

Local playgrounds are located within urban areas and within recreation facilities.

Federation Park has been recently designed and installed and offers a play area themed around agriculture. The play area includes a number of play opportunities which are connected and accessible. Its location within the town centre also offers ease of access for residents and visitors.

Generally, playgrounds are located within parkland

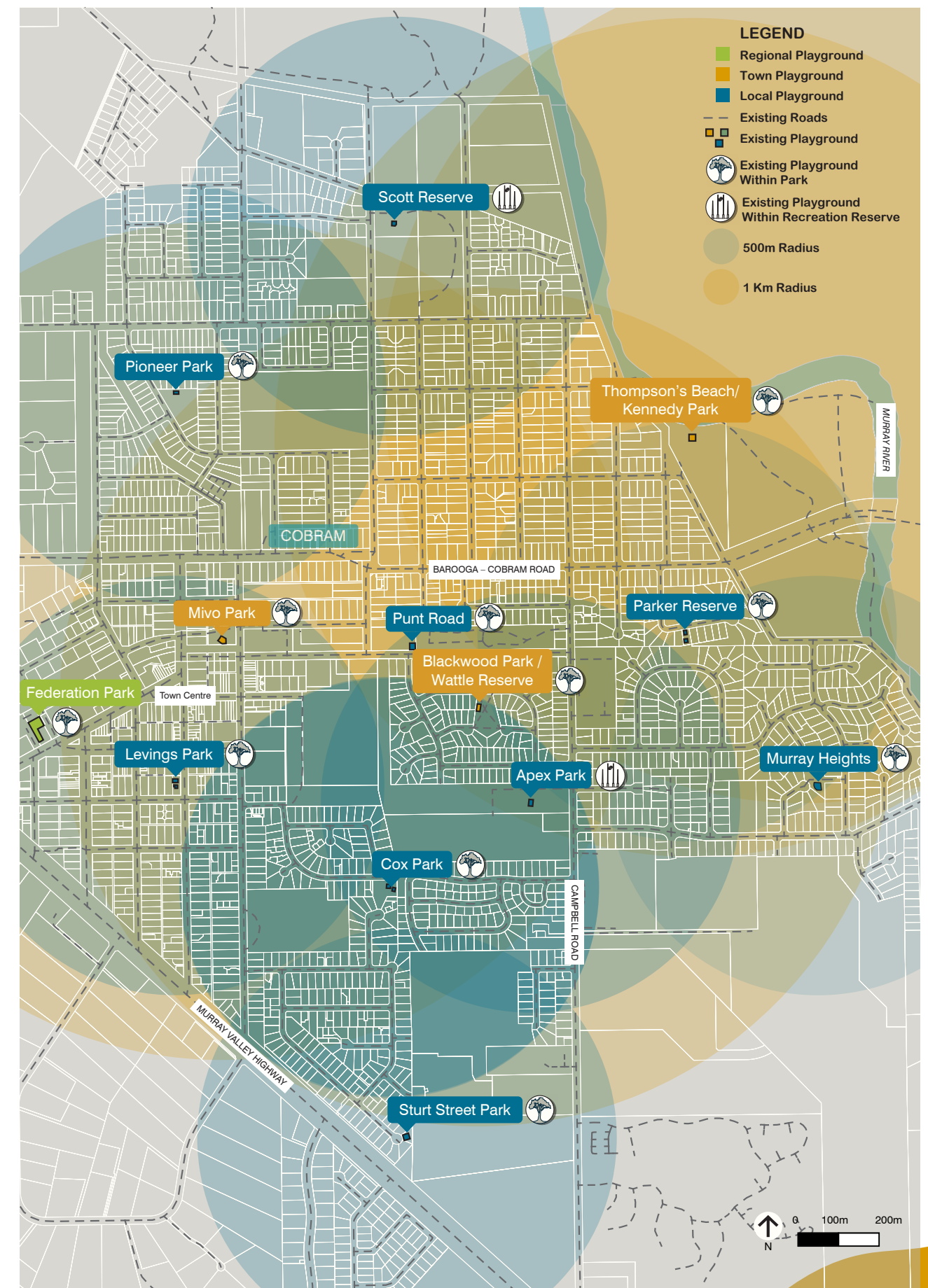
spaces and some playgrounds offer limited play value and associated amenity.

There is opportunity to improve integration of some of the playgrounds with their parkland setting in terms of access, provision of shade and capturing the potential of the space for a variety of play value and incorporated amenity.

In some instances, playgrounds are also situated at the end of court-bowls, and/or are situated immediately adjacent residential fences. There is scope to reconsider safety of these playgrounds in terms of visual and physical access and the locations of the playgrounds within the park areas.

Compared to the other major towns in Moira Shire, Cobram is over serviced in terms of the quantity of playgrounds within the urban area. This presents an opportunity rationalise the number of playgrounds in Cobram with a view to improving the quality of play value in the town.

There is scope to improve the play offering in Cobram through thoughtful design which provides improved siting and play value through new equipment, amenities and cohesive integration with parkland.



Cobram

Nathalia

Nathalia is currently well serviced with playgrounds in terms of quantity and catchment.

Nathalia is home to two town playgrounds and two local playgrounds.

The town playgrounds are located adjacent the Broken Creek, in the east and west of the town. Apex Park has recently been improved with new equipment and fencing. Accessibility, however, remains an issue with raised edge and soft fall mulch surface limiting opportunities for inclusive play.

Nathalia's local playgrounds are at the Nathalia Showgrounds and at the Nathalia Library/Maternal Health Centre.

Nathalia is well serviced by town level playgrounds and two local playgrounds south of Broken Creek. A local play space could be considered in the northern portion of the town.

Nathalia's setting on the Broken Creek offers a unique environment for play areas that capture the character of the setting and provide a play space experience within riverine parklands.



Nathalia

Numurkah

Numurkah is serviced by four playgrounds, being one regional playground and three local playgrounds.

Apex Park is a regional playground. The local playgrounds are Tweddle Street Reserve in the north of the town, McNamara Drive Reserve (Lions Playground) on the southern edge of the Broken Creek, within the Recreation Reserve, and at the Numurkah Showgrounds.

Apex Park has recently been upgraded to provide a range of play opportunities and includes nature play elements, accessible equipment and natural shade from existing trees. The playground is adjacent the Numurkah Swimming Pool and located within parkland that provides additional amenities and mature trees.

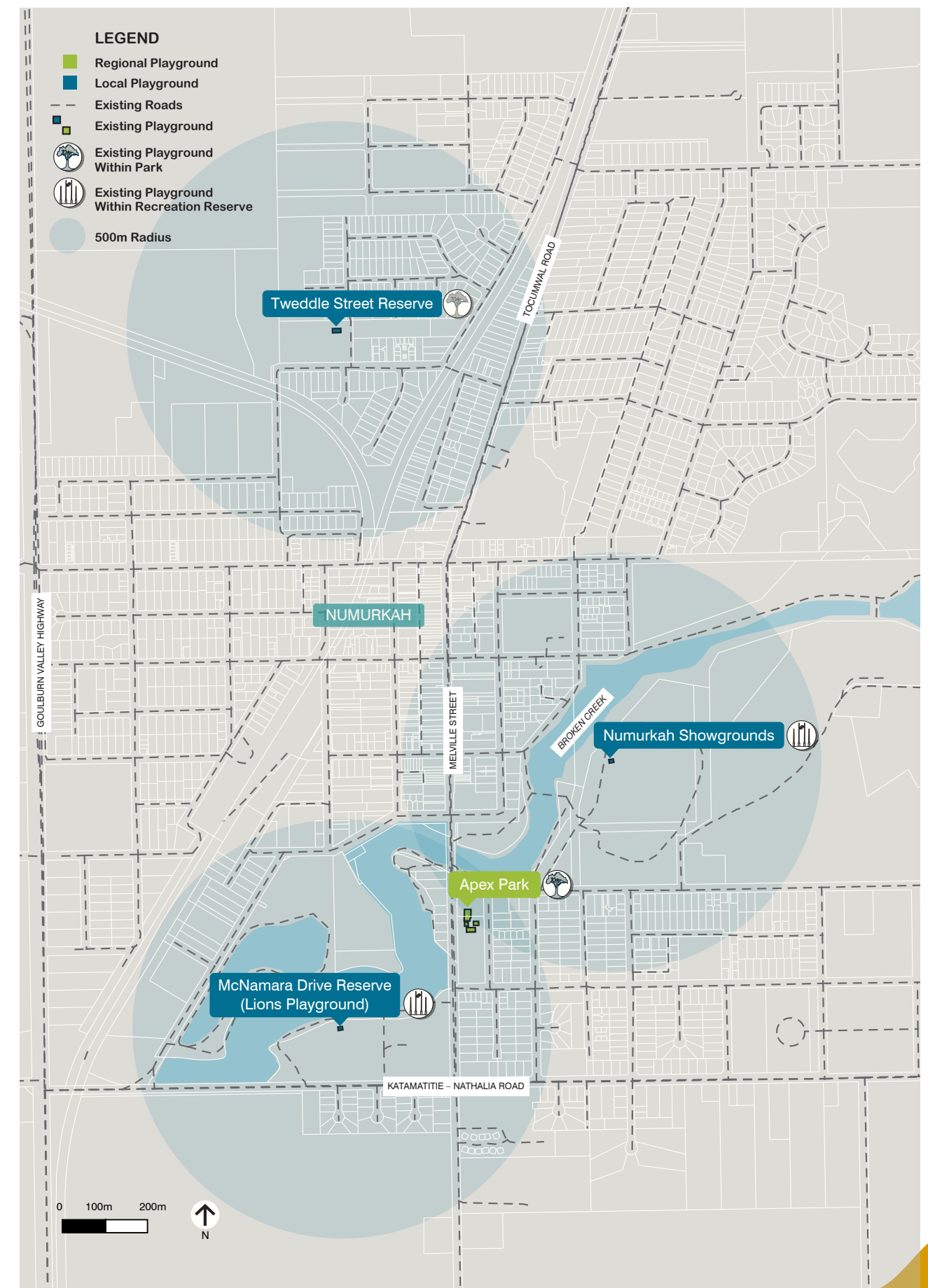
While McNamara Reserve (Lions Playground) is located

adjacent to the Broken Creek, the playground is some distance from residential areas and offers little play value. Its location adjacent to the netball courts does not capture the potential of the riverine location.

Numurkah Showgrounds playground sits adjacent the club house and the main oval.

Tweddle Street Playground in the northern residential area of town is located within a large reserve, however it offers minimal play value, amenity or connectivity with the parkland.

While Numurkah offers a Regional Playground south of the Broken Creek, the vast majority of residents do not have access to play within walking distance. Compared to the other major towns in the Shire, Numurkah is very under serviced in the provision of play. There is scope to provide additional play spaces in the town to improve access to quality play opportunities. Additional play spaces could be considered in the north, south east and west of the town centre.



Numurkah

Yarrawonga

Yarrawonga is serviced by six town playgrounds and nine local playgrounds. The playgrounds offer numerous opportunities for play across the town.

Yarrawonga's iconic foreshore on Lake Mulwala provides both town and local playgrounds, some of which have seen recent upgrades. Residential areas include local playgrounds both north and south of the Murray Valley Highway.

North of the Murray Valley Highway there are recently installed playgrounds in the Silverwoods development and older playgrounds in residential areas. The older playgrounds could be improved to offer greater play value and siting in parkland which improves safety, visibility and space from adjacent residential boundaries.

Hammon Park is classified as a town playground,

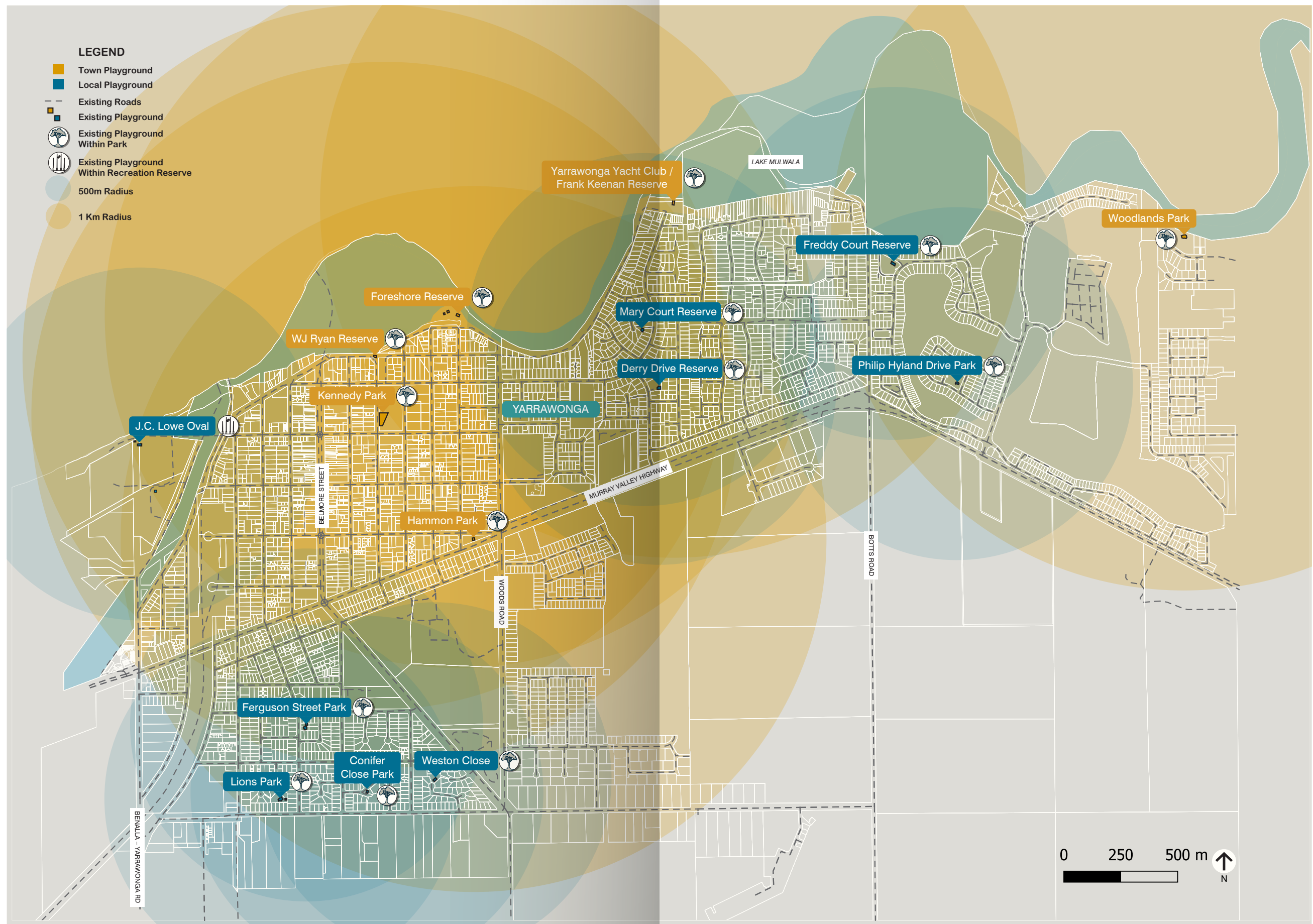
however the play offering could be reconsidered given its location on the Murray Valley Highway and the proximity of alternative higher value play areas.

South of the Murray Valley Highway there is a cluster of local playgrounds. These could be rationalised to consolidate to a site that offers potential for a safe, accessible, visible and high value play space.

Yarrawonga's future growth areas south of the Murray Valley Highway also present an opportunity for Council to establish the location of a future play space to service new residential areas.

The Strategy acknowledges the recent work by Council in relation to a premier play space in Kennedy Park. The Strategy sees the potential for a regional play space in Kennedy Park given there is limited room on the Yarrawonga foreshore, the location of Kennedy Park within the urban area and its surrounding community facilities, and the large open parkland character of the site.





Yarrawonga

Smaller Communities

Playgrounds are provided throughout numerous smaller communities across Moira Shire, generally with an even spread from Bundalong in the east to Barmah in the west.

There are 23 playgrounds across the smaller communities where 13 are located in local recreation reserves and 10 are situated within parkland.

Generally, each smaller community comprises of one local playground, with the exception of Strathmerton which has one town playground and two local playgrounds, Katamatite which has three local playgrounds, Tungamah which has three local playgrounds and Wunghu which has two local playgrounds. Wilby also has two playgrounds at the Recreation Reserve and Race Track.

With Cobram and Numurkah providing regional playgrounds situated centrally within the Shire, access for residents in the east and west of the Shire to a regional playground could be improved.

A number of playgrounds are located within parkland within the smaller communities and co-located with other amenities such as riverine parklands, visitor rest stops and/or tourist destinations, which are generally within proximity of the local centres.

There are also a number of playgrounds across the smaller communities which have dated equipment and offer little play value or connectivity with surrounding community places and environments.

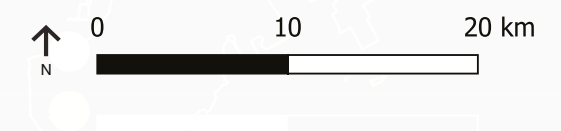
There is great opportunity for creation of play spaces within the smaller communities which offer significant play value by virtue of their existing locations, such as riverine environments and community recreation reserves.

Improving playgrounds and/or creation of play spaces throughout the smaller communities in the Shire also presents the opportunity to capture the unique settings and history of each town with a view to strengthening future identity.



LEGEND

- Regional Playground
- Town Playground
- Local Playground
- Existing Roads
- Existing Playground Within Park
- Existing Playground Within Recreation Reserve



Moira Shire Smaller Communities

09. Recommendations

Play space improvements in Moira Shire

The outcomes of the analysis and mapping of the playgrounds in Moira Shire lead to a series of recommendations to confirm hierarchy of play spaces, rationalisation of current assets and identified opportunities for amalgamation and upgrades.

The recommendations have considered current hierarchy, play value and location, with a view to providing high value play opportunities across the Shire. This includes consolidation of assets, where required, in order to allocate funds towards improving equitable distribution of play spaces across the Shire, whilst also improving play value and amenity with an emphasis on quality rather than quantity.

“
The value
of play is
undisputed and
widely accepted
as mandatory
in childhood
development.
When children
play they are not
just filling in time,
they are learning to
interpret their world.

”
The Good Play Space Guide

Moira's Play Hierarchy

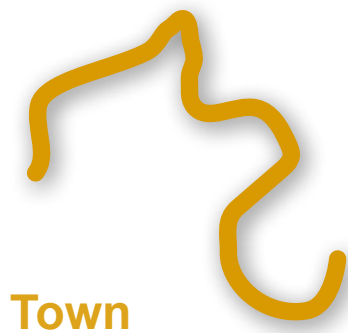


Regional

In Moira Shire, a regional play space is the largest of our play spaces and provide a destination that services the region (with an identified 40km catchment radius).

Our regional play spaces provide play opportunities for all ages and abilities through offering a broad range of unique and high quality play experiences.

Our regional play spaces respond to their setting and take advantage of adjacent open spaces and community facilities. They are inclusive of by a high level of supporting infrastructure such as toilets, picnic areas and facilities, BBQs and parking to allow long stays by community and visitors.



Town

In Moira Shire, a town play space is a medium size play space that services the local community (with an identified 1km radius).

Our town play spaces cater for a range of age groups and offers a range of quality play experiences that includes their parkland settings.

Our town play spaces are supported by some surrounding infrastructure that may include toilet facilities, picnic areas, BBQs and parking to allow medium length stays by community and visitors.

Some of our town play spaces in smaller communities are co-located with rest stops which provide surrounding infrastructure



Local

In Moira Shire, a local play space is the smallest of our play spaces that service local residents (with an identified 500m radius).

Our local play spaces cater for some age groups while providing a small variety of play experiences that includes accessible play elements.

Essential amenities such as seating and shade are included and are intended to provide for visits around an hour for local residents.

Many of our smaller communities' local play spaces are located within recreation reserves, which offer supporting infrastructure such as open space and toilets.

Some of our smaller communities' local play spaces may offer additional supporting infrastructure and amenity given they are the only facility in the community.

Matrix and Mapping

The Play Strategy describes a series of recommendations as outlined below and in the mapping on the subsequent pages.

The Strategy recommends for each playground that one or more actions are required, as outlined below:

UPDATE HIERARCHY

The hierarchy of the play space is to be upgraded or downgraded where:

- The current play value and amenity does not reflect the defined hierarchy
- There is an over or under provision of a certain hierarchy in one area

✓ NEW PLAY SPACE

An entirely new play space is required where:

- There is no existing play space
- In some instances, an entirely new play space is recommended as a consolidation of existing playgrounds and/or where there is a lack of play amenity in an area. Council will be required to undertake further investigation to confirm site locations and design brief

↑ UPGRADE EXISTING

The existing playground can be retained however upgrades for improvement can occur where:

- Upgrade of existing playgrounds will provide play spaces with higher play value, improved accessibility and play experiences for a variety of age groups
- Further investigation and assessment are required to confirm the potential improvements

○ MAINTAIN/MODIFY

The existing play space does not require significant changes, where:

- Council will continue to maintain play space to a high standard
- Improvements to accessibility, shade and potentially additional play value may be considered
- Council will undertake condition audits and renew play and amenity provision upon audit failure considering and implementing required renewals in line with the Strategy Design Guidelines

✗ DECOMMISSION

Recommendations for removal of playgrounds where:

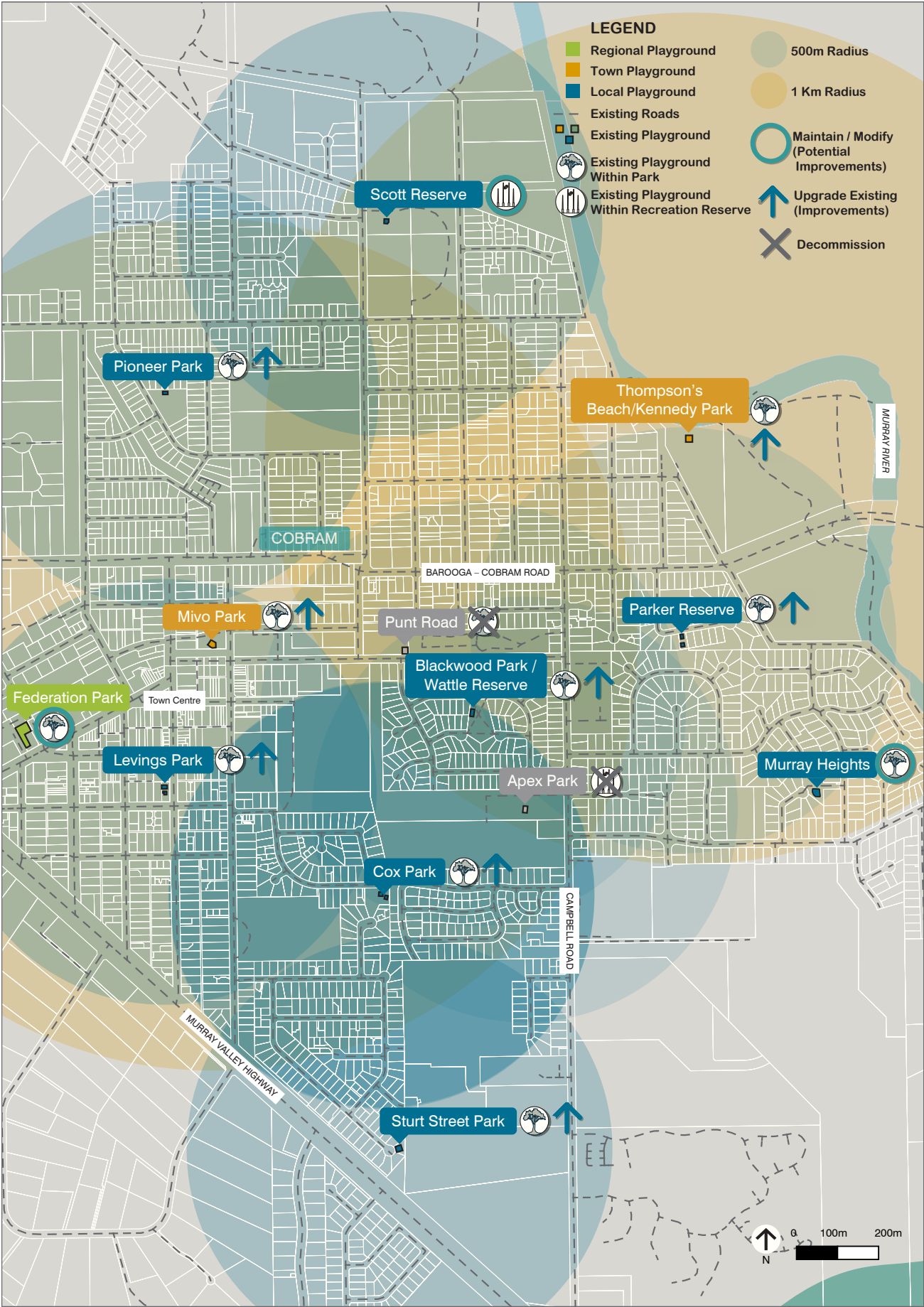
- Equipment is old and will require replacement or repair in the near future at a cost to Council, capturing the opportunity to redistribute capital investment towards improvements to other play spaces
- The playground currently offers very little or no additional play amenity to the community
- Removal of equipment will be offset by play spaces within local proximity that offer greater play and economic value
- Playground equipment is considered to be at the end of its useful life and the community will be notified

Recommendations Cobram

COBRAM

	CURRENT HIERARCHY	RECOMMENDED ACTION					COMMENTS
		UPDATE HIERARCHY	NEW PLAY SPACE	UPGRADE EXISTING	MAINTAIN / MODIFY	DECOMMISSION	
Federation Park	R				X		Maintain existing new playground
Thompsons Beach/Kennedy Park	T			X			Capture riverine character and integrate with open space in creation of new play space
Punt Road	L					X	Decommission given proximity of other play spaces
Murray Heights	L				X		Maintain new playground ensuring accessibility and shade
Mivo Park	T			X			Upgrade to consider improved accessibility and incorporate nature play
Sturt Street Park	L			X			Seating, shade, nature play
Levings Park	L			X			Modify for all abilities access, improved seating and cohesive connected design
Cox Park	L			X			Cohesive design for new play space capturing potential of open space
Pioneer Park	L			X			Cohesive design for new play space capturing potential of open space
Scott Reserve	L				X		Modify to improve amenity, shade, play value
Parker Reserve	L			X			Cohesive design for new play space capturing potential of open space
Apex Park / Cobram Sports Stadium	L	-				X	Decommission given proximity of other play spaces
Blackwood Park / Wattle Reserve	T	L		X			Cohesive design for new play space capturing potential of open space

R=Regional, T=Town, L=Local



Cobram

Recommendations Nathalia

NATHALIA

	RECOMMENDED ACTION						COMMENTS
	CURRENT HIERARCHY	UPDATE HIERARCHY	NEW PLAY SPACE	UPGRADE EXISTING	MAINTAIN / MODIFY	DECOMMISSION	
Uncle Bob's Club Park	T			X			Improve accessibility, play opportunities (nature play) and integration with parkland
Nathalia Apex Park	T				X		Maintain new playground, consider improving accessibility opportunities and connectivity with local environmental character
Nathalia Showgrounds	L			X			Review and improve play opportunities
Nathalia Library/Maternal Health	L			X			Review and improve play opportunities
Nathalia Proposed - North of Broken Creek NEW		L	X				Potential for new play space north side of town

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Nathalia

Recommendations Numurkah

NUMURKAH

	CURRENT HIERARCHY	RECOMMENDED ACTION					COMMENTS
		UPDATE HIERARCHY	NEW PLAY SPACE	UPGRADE EXISTING	MAINTAIN / MODIFY	DECOMMISSION	
Numurkah Apex Park	R				X		Maintain new play space
McNamara Drive Reserve (Lions Playground)	L			X			Cohesive design for new play space capturing potential of reserve facilities and riverine character
Tweddle Street Reserve East / West	L			X			Cohesive design for new play space capturing potential of open space
Numurkah Showgrounds	L			X			Cohesive design for new play space capturing potential of reserve facilities and riverine character
Numurkah Proposed – Lake Numurkah		T	X				
Numurkah Proposed – North		L	X				
Numurkah Proposed – West		L	X				

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Numurkah

Recommendations Yarrawonga

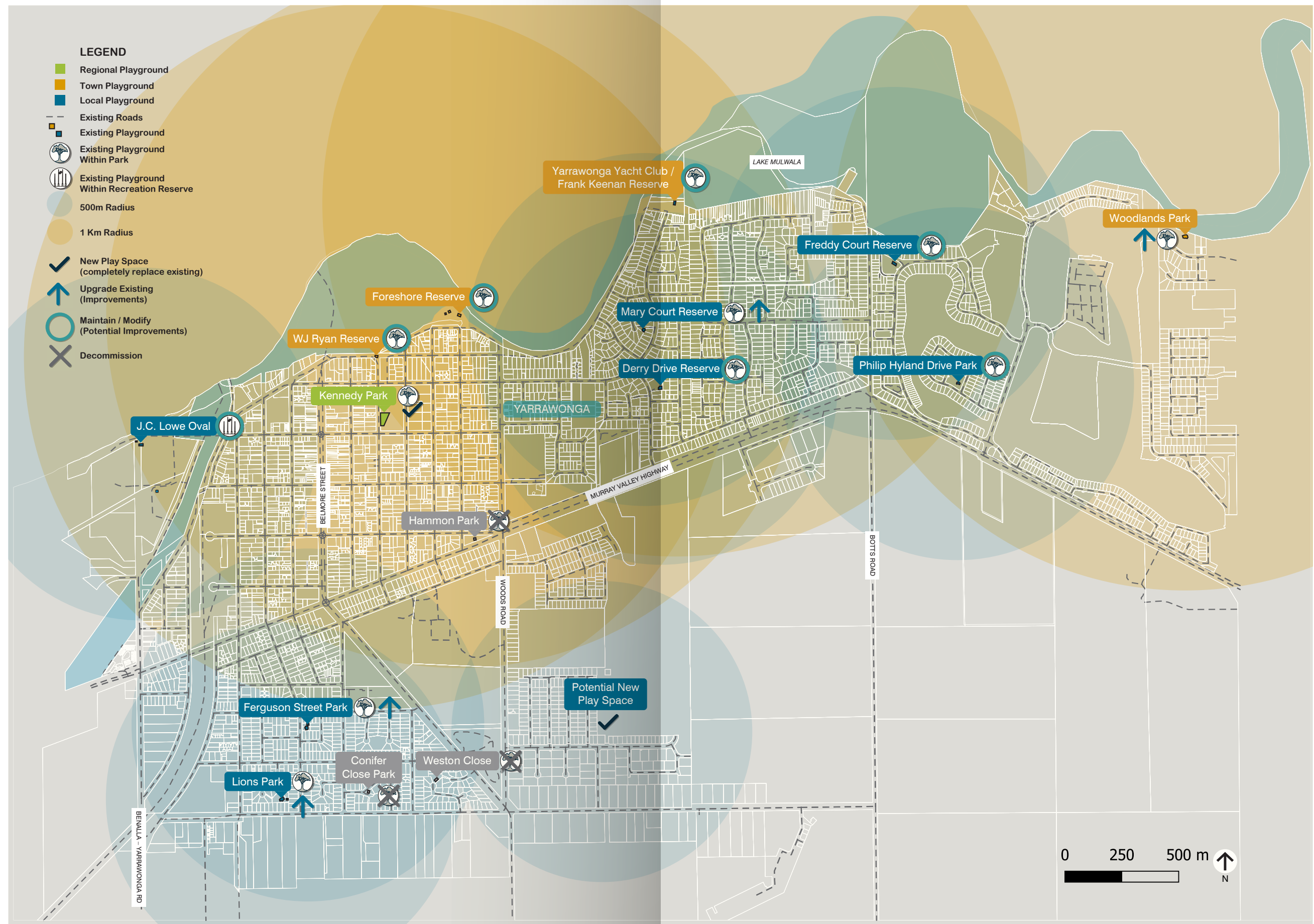
YARRAWONGA

	RECOMMENDED ACTION						COMMENTS
	CURRENT HIERARCHY	UPDATE HIERARCHY	NEW PLAY SPACE	UPGRADE EXISTING	MAINTAIN / MODIFY	DECOMMISSION	
Kennedy Park (Lynch Street Park)	T	R	X				New Regional (Premier) Play Space
Frank Keenan Reserve	T				X		Improve play value given supporting amenity and location on Lake Mulwala
Yarrawonga Foreshore Reserve	T				X		Maintain recently installed play area; consider integration of grass area within fencing
Hammon Park	T	–				X	Remove given location on Murray Valley Highway
Woodlands Park (Linthorpe Drive)	T			X			Improve play value, integration with open space and capture potential of location on Lake Mulwala
Lions Park	L			X			Potential for improved local playground
Ferguson Street Park	L			X			Consolidate local playgrounds and create new play space
Conifer Close Park	L	–				X	Remove playground equipment with a view to planting trees and creating open grassed area (including traffic management)
Weston Close	L	–				X	Remove playground due to safety risks and improved Ferguson Street Park
J.C. Lowe Oval	L				X		Consider potential for additional play value
WJ Ryan Reserve	T				X		Maintain recently installed play space
Mary Court Reserve	L			X			Cohesive design for new play space capturing potential of open space
Derry Drive Reserve	L				X		Maintain play space, considering accessible elements in any improvements

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	RECOMMENDED ACTION						COMMENTS
	CURRENT HIERARCHY	UPDATE HIERARCHY	NEW PLAY SPACE	UPGRADE EXISTING	MAINTAIN / MODIFY	DECOMMISSION	
Freddy Court Reserve	L				X		Maintain play space, considering accessible elements in any improvements
Philip Hyland Drive	L				X		Maintain play space, considering accessible elements in any improvements
Proposed – Woods Road development		L	X				Potential new play space to service Woods Road urban development area

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Yarrawonga

SMALL COMMUNITIES

	RECOMMENDED ACTION						
	CURRENT HIERARCHY	UPDATE HIERARCHY	NEW PLAY SPACE	UPGRADE EXISTING	MAINTAIN / MODIFY	DECOMMISSION	
							COMMENTS
BARMAH							
Jack Edwards Park	L	T			X		New equipment; upgrade to Town level given associated amenities; consider buffer planting and accessible elements
BEARII							
Bearii Recreation Reserve	L			X			Cohesive design for upgraded play space capturing potential of open space
BUNDALONG							
Dan Cronin Recreation Reserve	L			X			Consider relocation of play space to capture potential of open grassed area
BURRAMINE SOUTH							
Burramine Hall	L	–				X	Decommission
INVERGORDON							
Invergordon Gayfer Reserve	L			X			Upgrade local play space integrated with surrounding amenity
KATAMATITE							
C.R. Wood Park	L	T		X			Upgrade given associated amenity, location and potential for higher play value
Katamatite Museum Park	L	–				X	Decommission given proximity of other play opportunities
Katamatite Recreation Reserve	L			X			Cohesive design for upgraded play space capturing potential of adjoining recreation reserve
KATUNGA							
Katunga Recreation Reserve	L			X			Upgrade to provide improve play value capturing potential of setting in Recreation Reserve
PICOLA							
Picola Recreation Reserve	L			X			Cohesive design for upgraded play space capturing potential of adjoining recreation reserve

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	RECOMMENDED ACTION						
	CURRENT HIERARCHY	UPDATE HIERARCHY	NEW PLAY SPACE	UPGRADE EXISTING	RENEW/MAINTAIN	DECOMMISSION	COMMENTS
ST JAMES							
J.F. Kelly Reserve	L	T		X			Upgrade to Town level given associated amenities, provide new play space
STRATHMERTON							
Strathmerton Lions Park	T			X			Consolidate connectivity between amenity; nature play; review fencing
Strathmerton RSL Park	L	–				X	Decommission given site constraints and proximity of other play
Strathmerton Recreation Reserve	L			X			Cohesive design for upgraded play space capturing potential of reserve facilities and local character
TUNGAMAH							
Tungamah Lions Park	L	T		X			Upgrade to Town level given associated amenities, review existing equipment; provide cohesive play space capturing potential of parkland and riverine character
Tungamah Recreation Reserve	L			X			Cohesive design for upgraded play space capturing potential of reserve facilities and local character
Boyd Street Reserve	L			X			Upgrade if supported, consider proximity to Lions Park
WAAIA							
Waaia Recreation Reserve	L	T		X			Upgrade to Town level given adjacent amenities and recreation reserve
WILBY							
Wilby Recreation Reserve	L			X			Provide upgraded local play space
Wilby Race Track	L					X	Decommission given proximity to Recreation Reserve
WUNGHNU							
Wunghnu Recreation Reserve	L			X			Cohesive design for upgraded play space capturing potential of reserve facilities and local character
George Graham Park	L			X			Cohesive design for upgraded play space capturing potential of riverine character and adjacent amenities
YARROWEYAH							
Yarroweyah Recreation Reserve	L			X			Cohesive design for upgraded play space capturing potential of reserve facilities and local character

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LEGEND

- Regional Playground
- Town Playground
- Local Playground
- Existing Roads
- Existing Playground Within Park
- Existing Playground Within Recreation Reserve
- 40km Regional Radius
- New Play Space (completely replace existing)
- Upgrade Existing (Improvements)
- Maintain / Modify (Potential Improvements)
- Decommission



Moira Shire Smaller Communities

10. Design Guidelines

A guide to successful play space design

Play space design guidelines have been prepared to guide Council, qualified play space designers and developers in the advancement of play spaces throughout the Shire.

Development of play spaces may involve upgrading of existing playgrounds or installation of new play spaces. There are also opportunities to modify some existing playgrounds to improve a range of elements that may include their cohesion within existing parklands, enhanced play value, connectivity, accessibility and inclusivity.

The design guidelines capture a selection of 'best practice' design standards in successful play space design that promote healthy growth and development of children, provide for and encourage interaction and exploration, and foster a connected, healthy and inclusive community.

The guidelines provide a series of considerations, supplemented with images of quality outcomes, that when taken into account in thoughtful play space design, will support the Shire and community's aspirations for diverse and high quality play experiences.



Welcoming and Safe

Create welcoming and safe play spaces that take into account:

- Location of play space suitable for the site including appropriate distance from risks such as roads, waterways and residential boundaries / fences
- Visibility into and across the play space from the entrance and throughout the site
- Passive surveillance from surrounding land uses (residential areas, foreshores, car parks)
- CPTED principles
- Designed, installed and maintained to relevant safety standards
- Barriers to safely contain children such as garden beds, strategically located natural elements such as rocks / logs and or seating, or fencing
- Thoughtful incorporation of fencing into play space design where required, considering opportunities for

partial fencing if suitable

- Provision of a range of seating options (that may include picnic settings) to provide comfort and amenity; locate seating to allow for adult / carer interaction and engagement with children while they play
- Comfortable experience and atmosphere for all users such as places to sit, shade and/or shelter, protection from perceived hazards and opportunity to capture warmth of winter sunshine
- Utilise existing trees in design for optimum seasonal solar aspect throughout the play space while strategically locating new tree planting to achieve future shade
- Tree species selection suitable for the local environment that also considers foliage and fruit/ nuts, dense or dappled shade, solar orientation for maximum seasonal benefits



Connected, Accessible and Inclusive

Create connected, accessible and inclusive play spaces that take into account:

- Location of play space in easily accessible locations within the site
- Universal Design Principles, where achievable, that includes equitable use, flexibility in use, simple and intuitive to use, perceptible information, tolerance for error, low physical effort and size and space for approach and use
- Physical connectivity of play space to surrounding amenity and recreational assets such as car parking areas, pedestrian path network, shared / cycle paths and existing amenities
- Continuous circulation paths through the play space that also connect with surrounding parkland and street path networks

- Surfacing throughout the site that allows accessibility for people of all ages and abilities
- Inclusive equipment that allows for play by people of all ages and abilities
- Exclusion of barriers to accessibility (for wheelchairs, prams and mobility impaired), for example raised edging
- Inclusion of flush interfaces between surfaces such as paths / play surfaces to provide access for all
- Provision of seating with adjacent hard wearing surface to accommodate wheelchairs and/or prams
- Equitable distribution of play opportunities and interaction throughout the play space



‘Play Space’ Whole Of Park Design

Create ‘play spaces’ that take into account:

- Whole of park design that provides a diverse variety of spaces and elements that responds to, and is connected with, the surrounding parkland, foreshore or recreation reserve
- Creation of designated play areas that provide a holistic, cohesive and connected arrangement of play opportunities
- Existing amenity and facilities where co-location of play space enhances synergies for the site
- Play value of all parkland features, including trees and garden vegetation, topography, open grassed areas, natural elements, pathways
- Structured play value elements and unstructured play value elements
- Variety of elements that encourage challenge and growth for a range of age groups and abilities



Unique, Sense Of Place

Create unique play spaces that take into account:

- Providing a sense of place to promote positive perception and experience of the site and local environment
- Thoughtful design that enhances and captures the potential of the existing environmental values, such as riverine, agricultural or urban characteristics, local flora and fauna, and responds to the qualities of the site and local environment
- Provision of quality spaces that facilitate cognitive, physical and social play opportunities and experiences to foster healthy childhood growth and development
- A variety of play opportunities to challenge a broad range of ages and abilities that includes a combination of formal equipment and informal play value such as nature play, topography, sensory elements and planting, musical instruments and open grassed areas
- Play opportunities that cater for social and individual play



Sustainable, Healthy Communities

Create sustainable play spaces that take into account:

- Promotion of healthy communities through thoughtful design and implementation of play spaces that encourage and facilitate social interaction
 - Local community cultural values and way of life
 - Community involvement in the development of the design, in line with Council's community consultation and engagement obligations
 - Inclusion of a wide variety of equipment and play opportunities to encourage greatest use and participation
 - Provision of comfortable amenities that encourage community gathering and socialisation, which respond to the site and any existing co-located facilities
 - Minimising impact on the broader environment
- through inclusion of durable materials from sustainable sources which complement the local setting while being suited to longevity and economical to maintain
 - Use of natural and locally available materials to foster community involvement, minimise transport emissions and develop awareness and appreciation of the local environmental values
 - Opportunities to include solar power and LED options, if required
 - Council's capacity to effectively maintain the play space and parkland design
 - Inclusion of locally indigenous and/or native plants that will grow successfully on the site and in microclimates





Moira Shire Play Strategy

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