



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICY							
PLAY SPACE POLICY	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Policy No:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Adopted by Council:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">20 May 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Next review date:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">May 2030</td> </tr> </table>	Policy No:		Adopted by Council:	20 May 2026	Next review date:	May 2030
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Executive Director:	Director Infrastructure Development & Works Director Corporate and Community Services						
Responsible Officer:	Manager Infrastructure Engineering						
Functional Area:	Early Years, Sport & Recreation, Tourism, Economic Development, Assets and Works						
Introduction and Background	<p>Council supports the view that play space facilities help develop and improve the experience for all users, young and old. There is a need for play spaces that are unique and exciting, spaces that provide a range of engaging play experiences that are accessible to users of all ages, abilities, cultural and social backgrounds where practicable.</p> <p>There is a need for a balance of facilities to cater for the progression of the users through their development stages. The contribution the play spaces provide for liveability in our municipality is acknowledged, as is their importance to visitors to our region.</p> <p>The link with public health and healthy eating, physical activity and social connectivity must be considered, along with other Council Plan initiatives and objectives.</p>						
Purpose and Objectives	<p>The purpose of this Play Space Policy, is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) To ensure the provision of play space meets contemporary access and development needs for users of the play spaces. b) To show Council's commitment to the provision of accessible, enjoyable, stimulating, and challenging play spaces that enhance the users' learning, development and access to opportunities for physical activity. c) To develop a balanced approach to the provision of play spaces (and sport & recreation) opportunities. d) To ensure a direct link to the Early Years and the Council Plan. 						
Response to the Overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020	<p>Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles.</p> <p>This policy is in response to the following overarching governance</p>						



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

	<p>principle/s of the Local Government Act 2020:</p> <p>a) the strategic planning principles (section 89)</p>
Definitions	<p>Play Spaces</p> <p>a) Play spaces, including equipment in public spaces and skate parks.</p> <p>b) Outdoor play spaces in Council managed kindergartens.</p> <p>c) Exercise equipment and facilities under Council management.</p> <p>d) Open space areas</p>
Policy Details	
1.	<p>Facilities</p> <p>A balance needs to be provided across the Council to cater for the various ages and capabilities. Economic and social benefit, including health and wellbeing will be considered in Council's determination of play space assets.</p>
2.	<p>Management</p> <p>Council has responsibility to develop and ensure play spaces are installed and maintained in accordance with the Australian Standards.</p> <p>Council will implement a maintenance plan in response to the annual independent audit undertaken for all of Council's play spaces. The plan should be achievable and within Council's allocated annual play space and skate park maintenance budget.</p>
3.	<p>Inspections</p> <p>Council has responsibility to ensure play spaces are inspected in accordance with the appropriate Australian Standards.</p> <p>Council will ensure the inspections are completed by trained and competent staff and external consultants, and a documented record is retained by Council.</p> <p>The inspection program identifies all the known risks associated with play spaces and includes:</p> <p>a) Proactive Periodic Scheduled Inspections</p> <p>b) Annual inspection by external consultant</p> <p>c) Reactive Inspections</p>
4.	<p>Review of Play Spaces</p> <p>Council will review the design, provision, and purpose of individual play spaces as funding opportunities arise and prior to replacement of non-compliant or outdated items of equipment.</p>
5.	<p>Australian Standards</p> <p>a) AS 1428 – Design for Access and Mobility</p> <p>b) AS 2890 – Parking Facilities</p> <p>c) AS 1158 – Exterior Lighting</p> <p>d) AS 4685.0:2017 Play Equipment and Surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance, and operation</p>



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) AS 4685.1:2021 Play Equipment and Surfacing - General safety requirements and test methods f) AS 4685.2:2021 Play Equipment and Surfacing - Additional safety requirements and test methods for swings g) AS 4685.3:2021 Play Equipment and Surfacing - Additional safety requirements and test methods for slides h) AS 4685.4:2021 Play Equipment and Surfacing - Additional safety requirements and test methods for cableways i) AS 4685.5:2021 Play Equipment and Surfacing - Additional safety requirements and test methods for carousels j) AS 4685.6:2021 Play Equipment and Surfacing - Additional safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment k) AS 4685.11:2021 Play Equipment - Additional safety requirements and test methods for spatial network l) AS 4422:2022 Play Surfacing - Safety requirements and test method m) AS16630:2021 Permanently Installed Outdoor Fitness Equipment - Safety requirements and test methods
6.	References
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) West Wimmera Council Plan 2025-2029 b) Sport and Recreation Victoria
7.	Review
	The Play Space Policy shall be reviewed every four years or as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

Policy Adopted:	Ordinary Meeting 13/06/02	Minute Book Page 10145	
Policy Reviewed:	Ordinary Meeting 06/04/06	Minute Book Page 13682	
	Ordinary Meeting 11/03/10	Minute Book Page 17759	
	Ordinary Meeting 16/07/15	Minute Book Page 31431	RecFind 15/002907
	Ordinary Meeting 16/05/18	Minute Book Page 37939	RecFind 18/001835
	Council Forum 04/05/22		
	Council Meeting 18/05/22		E22/000164
	Council Meeting 20/05/26	SRV Governance – Policies, Procedures, Plans Strategies – Policies and Procedures – Council Policies	