

Attachment M

Use Group:	Children and young people
Use(s):	M. Playgrounds and play spaces

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Summaries of the key findings from this assessment are provided in the main Community Infrastructure Needs Analysis Key Findings & Recommendations report.

Detailed assessment results are provided in Part B to this report. Where available, Building Condition audits and Fitness for Purpose assessments that have informed the Suitability Assessment may be requested directly from Moorabool Shire Council.

Definition(s):

Playgrounds:

Equipped spaces that provide structured play opportunities for children.

Play spaces:

A more general form of 'playgrounds' that includes informal and unequipped spaces that provide unstructured play opportunities.

Notes

Revision and update of the Quantity Standards

The Quantity Standards are directly informed by the current levels of public use that existing facilities receive. This is because Council cannot reasonably determine Quantity Standards without first understanding how well, or how poorly, existing facilities are used.

Playground and play space hierarchy

Playgrounds and play spaces have been allocated to a hierarchy based on the distance catchment that each facility serves. Generally, facilities with more items of equipment, larger equipment, or higher design standards can attract users from a wider geographic area. Older facilities or those in poor condition are assumed to be less attractive and therefore have a smaller catchment than equivalent facilities that are new or in good condition. Also, a play facility located within significant open spaces can serve a catchment larger than a similar isolated facility elsewhere.

Council's adopted *Play Strategy (2015)* assigned all playgrounds and play spaces within the Shire to a 3-level hierarchy of local, district and regional. The following needs assessments now use the 4-level hierarchy described in table M1. This hierarchy has been developed through a re-examination of the size and 'attractiveness' of play spaces and an estimation of the catchments that each facility can reasonably be expected to serve in urban vs rural areas.

		In urban areas (> 2,000 total population)			In small towns & rural areas (< 2,000 total population)		
		<i>Distance catchment</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicative provision</i>	<i>Distance catchment</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Indicative provision</i>
1	Local	400m* (5 minute) walk	smallest scale, limited range of equipment, catering for ages up to 10	multiple per suburb	5 minute drive	small to medium scale, moderate range of equipment, catering for ages up to 10	1 or 2 per small town; intended to serve town only
2	District	800m (10 minute) walk	medium scale, moderate range of equipment, catering for ages up to 10	1 or 2 per suburb	10 minute drive	large scale, extensively equipped, catering for ages up to 14	intended to serve town and surrounding areas
3	Municipal	15 minute drive	large scale, extensively equipped, catering for ages up to 14	1 or 2 per municipality	15 minute drive <i>(none in small towns and rural areas)</i>		
4	Regional**	30 minute drive	premium, largest scale, destination facility catering for ages up to 16	Serves multiple municipalities	30 minute drive <i>(none in small towns and rural areas)</i>		

Table M1: Play facilities hierarchy

* the 400m walking catchment was adopted through the Play Strategy (2015)

** there are no regional-level play spaces in Moorabool Shire

Existing infrastructure

The following publicly-accessible play facilities within Moorabool Shire were recorded through the Community Infrastructure Audit and assessed for this report:

Facility	Hierarchy	Owner
Small towns and rural areas		
Balliang Public Hall Reserve playground	Local	State Government
Beremboke Recreation Reserve playground	Local	State Government
Blackwood Mineral Springs Caravan Park play area	Local	Other
Bullarook Recreation Reserve playground	Local	State Government
Carberry Drive Reserve	Local	Council
Dunnstown Recreation Reserve playground	Local	Council
Elaine Recreation Reserve playground	Local	Council
Gordon Public Park playground	Local	State Government
Greendale Recreation Reserve (Egan's Reserve) playground	Local	Council
Hopetoun Park Recreation Reserve playground	Local	Other
Korweinguboora Recreation Reserve playground	Local	State Government
Lal Lal Falls Reserve playground	Local	Council
Merimu Reservoir Reserve playground	Local	Other
Millbrook Community Centre & Reserve playground	Local	Council
Mount Wallace Reserve & Hall playground	Local	State Government
Myrniong Recreation Reserve playground	Local	State Government
Navigators Recreation Reserve playground	Local	Council
Paddock Creek Reserve playground	Local	Council
Pykes Creek Reserve playground	Local	Other
Wallace Recreation Reserve playground	Local	Council
Yendon Recreation Reserve Playground	Local	State Government
Total (count)	21	
Ballan		
Ballan Recreation Reserve playground <i>(temporarily removed in 2018)</i>	Local	State Government
Caledonian Park playground	District	Council
McLean Reserve Playground	Local	Council
Mill Park Reserve playground	District	Council
Total (count)	4	
Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds		
Beresford Crescent Reserve playground (Darley)	Local	Council
Darley Civic & Community Hub playground (Darley)	Local	Council
Darley Park playground (Darley)	District	Council
Federation Park Reserve playground (Darley)	Local	Council
Gleneagles Court Reserve playground (Darley)	Local	Council
Grantleigh Reserve playground (Darley)	Local	Council
Jonathan Drive Reserve playground (Darley)	Local	Council
Pentland Primary School playground (Darley)	Local	State Government

Facility	Hierarchy	Owner
Rodgers Reserve playground (Darley)	Local	Council
Silverdale Drive playground (Darley)	Local	Council
Barbara Court Reserve playground (Bacchus Marsh)	Local	Council
Clarinda Street Reserve playground (Bacchus Marsh)	Local	Council
Lidgett Street Reserve playground (Bacchus Marsh)	Local	Council
Rotary Park playground (Bacchus Marsh)	District	Council
Hillview Reserve playground (Maddingley)	Local	Council
Maddingley Park adventure playground (Maddingley)	Municipal	State Government
Maddingley Park toddlers playground (Maddingley)	District	State Government
Powlett Street Reserve playground (Maddingley)	Local	Council
Sarino Park Estate Reserve playgrounds (Maddingley)	Local	Council
Total (count)	19	

Table M2: Existing publicly-accessible play spaces within Moorabool Shire

Of the 44 playgrounds recorded across the Shire, all are 'local' level other than 6:

- Caledonian Park playground (Ballan (District))
- Mill Park playground, Ballan (District)
- Darley Park playground (District)
- Rotary Park playground (District)
- Maddingley Park adventure playground (Municipal)
- Maddingley Park toddlers playground (District)

There are no 'Regional' level play spaces in Moorabool Shire.

In addition, 9 play spaces were recorded that are not openly accessible by the public. Most of these are within the grounds of primary schools or preschools. All are 'local' level:

Facility	Hierarchy	Owner
Bacchus Marsh Primary School playground	Local	State Government
Ballan and District Preschool playground	Local	Council
Ballan Primary School playground	Local	State Government
Darley Primary School playground	Local	State Government
Mount Egerton Primary School playground	Local	State Government
Myrniong Primary School playground	Local	State Government
St Bernard's Parish Primary School playground (Bacchus Marsh)	Local	Other
Wallace & District Preschool and MCH playground (Wallace)	Local	Council
Young Street Preschool playground (Bacchus Marsh)	Local	Council

Table M3: Existing non-publicly-accessible play spaces within Moorabool Shire

Quantity Assessment findings

Purpose

A strategic assessment to determine whether there are enough facilities in relation to population size.

The Quantity Assessment determines whether there is currently a suitable and sufficient quantity of services or facilities to meet the needs of the population of an area. It seeks to identify any under or over-provision that exists now and, using Council's population forecasts, may exist in the future.

Findings of the Quantity Assessment

The Quantity Assessment is not the best means of assessing supply and demand for playgrounds. People's use of playgrounds is influenced more by their distance from homes, the quality and ease of pedestrian access, and the range, quality and suitability (for age groups) of play equipment. For this reason, the Quantity Assessment has not been conducted for playgrounds.

Utilisation Assessment findings

Purpose

Facility-specific assessments that determine whether services and facilities have adequate capacity to meet community demand.

The Utilisation Assessment examines the current level of use of facilities and determines whether or not they have capacity to accommodate existing and/or increased use.

Findings of the Utilisation Assessment

Utilisation data for playgrounds is was not available. The Utilisation Assessment was not conducted for playgrounds.

Travel Accessibility Assessment findings

Purpose

A strategic assessment to determine whether people can travel to services and facilities within a reasonable journey time.

The Travel Accessibility Assessment examines the geographic distribution of existing facilities and their relationship to public transport (train station and bus stops) and car parking. It assesses whether facilities are accessible within a reasonable journey distance or time from where people live and identifies any significant spatial gaps in provision.

The Travel Standards

'Local' playgrounds

Standards

used: *Settlements of population less than 2,000: 5 minute drive*
Settlements of population more than 2,000: 400m walk

'District' playgrounds

Standards

used: *Settlements of population less than 2,000: 10 minute drive*
Settlements of population more than 2,000: 800m walk

'Municipal' playgrounds

Standards

used: *All settlements: 15 minute drive*

'Regional' playgrounds

Standards

used: *All settlements: 30 minute drive*

Rationale:

The Travel Standards have been informed by various factors:

- *The geographic distribution of existing facilities and their distance from people.*
- *Minimum populations required to support viable services and facilities.*
- *Council and other service providers' financial ability to deliver and maintain a network of services and facilities.*

Findings of the Travel Accessibility Assessment

Detailed results of the Travel Accessibility Assessment are provided in Part B to this report. Summary results are shown in **Table M4** and **Maps M1 to M3** below.

Small towns and rural areas:

Table M4 below provides tabular results of the assessment for each of the 22 small towns and rural areas; the same results are shown on Maps M1 to M3.

- The results show that all but 4 small towns have access to at least 1 ‘local’ playground:
 - Barkstead
 - Clarendon
 - Dales Creek
 - Morrisons
- No small towns have access to ‘District’ playgrounds and only Myrniong, Balliang and Hopetoun Park are within the Travel Standard for ‘Municipal’ level.

Ballan:

- Ballan has access to 2 ‘local’ and 2 ‘district’ playgrounds but these do not provide coverage for the whole urban area.

Not shown on the maps:*

- Large parts of south and southwest Ballan are not within walking distance of the 4 public playgrounds (Ballan Recreation Reserve, McLean Reserve, Mill Park and Caledonian Park).
- The playground at the Ballan Recreation Reserve was removed in 2018 and is planned for replacement in 2019. This playground serves an important role in providing access to residents in the east and southeast of Ballan.

** at present, Bacchus Marsh is the only settlement assessed as an urban area. As the population of Ballan grows, it may be appropriate to also apply the urban assessment to Ballan.*

Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds:

- Maps M1 and M2 show that large parts of the urban area are not within 400m of the 15 ‘local’ playgrounds, or within 800m of the 3 ‘district’ playgrounds. Well over 50% of dwellings in Darley, Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley do not have a playground within the defined Travel Standards. *Further analysis will be required to refine this estimate.*
- Map M3 shows that all but the far north of Darley is within the Travel Standard for ‘Municipal’ playgrounds, the only 1 being the Adventure Playground at Maddingley Park.
- The walkability of several playgrounds is limited by poor footpath connections and missing pedestrian crossings.

Gap analysis results (Travel Accessibility Assessment) - maps

The following maps are provided in Part B to this report (‘Detailed assessment data’):

Map M1: Travel Accessibility Assessment results for ‘Playgrounds (Local)’

Map M2: Travel Accessibility Assessment results for ‘Playgrounds (District)’

Map M3: Travel Accessibility Assessment results for ‘Playgrounds (Municipal)’

** there is no map for ‘Regional’ playgrounds and therefore no Travel Accessibility Assessment results*

	Population within range ¹	Standard met/failed			Comments
		Local	District	Municipal	
Balliang	<100	✓	✗	✓	
Balliang East	100-200	✓	✗	✗	
Barkstead	<100	✗	✗	✗	No access to playgrounds
Blackwood	200-500	✓	✗	✗	
Bungaree	100-200	✓	✗	✗	
Clarendon	100-200	✗	✗	✗	No access to playgrounds
Dales Creek	200-500	✗	✗	✗	No access to playgrounds
Dunnstown	200-500	✓	✗	✗	
Elaine	<100	✓	✗	✗	
Gordon	500-2000	✓	✗	✗	
Greendale	500-2000	✓	✗	✗	
Hopetoun Park	500-2000	✓	✗	✓	
Korweinguboora	200-500	✓	✗	✗	
Lal Lal	200-500	✓	✗	✗	
Morrisons	<100	✗	✗	✗	No access to playgrounds
Mt Egerton	200-500	✓	✗	✗	
Mt Wallace	<100	✓	✗	✗	
Myrniong	200-500	✓	✗	✓	
Navigators	200-500	✓	✗	✗	
Wallace	200-500	✓	✗	✗	
Yendon	200-500	✓	✗	✗	

Table M4: results of the Travel Accessibility Assessment for small towns

- ✓ Travel Standard met,
- ✗ Travel Standard failed

¹ Travel Standards have been assigned to small towns according to population ranges. As larger populations can support a wider range of services and facilities, travel distance / time standards are generally less (i.e. better) for larger settlements. For more information regarding this methodology refer to the Moorabool Community Infrastructure Planning Process on Council's website.

Suitability Assessment findings

Purpose

Facility-specific assessments that determine whether facilities are fit for their purpose and in adequate physical condition.

The Suitability Assessment seeks to determine how suitable facilities are in terms of supporting the services or community activities delivered through them. The Suitability Assessment has two components: building condition and fitness for purpose.

Findings of the Suitability Assessment

Specialist skills and safety criteria are required to assess the condition and fitness for purpose of play facilities. As such, in-house Suitability Assessments were not developed and were not conducted. However, a number of broad findings for the suitability of playgrounds are listed below.

Note, the following findings are not informed by a professional condition, risk or safety audit.

Small towns and rural areas:

All 21 publicly-accessible play spaces recorded for small towns and rural areas are 'local' level playgrounds with a narrow range of equipment. All these provide only limited play opportunities that are restricted to traditional 'equipped' playgrounds that lack the elements of 'natural play' recommended by Council's *Play Strategy (2015)*.

Most playgrounds in small towns and rural areas are old and not especially attractive for people to travel to.

Ballan:

The 3 publicly-accessible playgrounds² in Ballan are generally fit for purpose. Mill Park and Caledonian Park were both recorded as 'District' level facilities due to their location within significant local reserves.

Other findings of note include:

- McLean Reserve playground is very small in size, comprising only one multi-function piece of equipment in suitable condition.
- Mill Park Reserve playground is fairly well-equipped and in suitable condition.
- Caledonian Park playground comprises one large multi-functional piece of equipment in suitable condition, located with BBQ / picnic facilities.

Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds:

15 of the 19 publicly-accessible playgrounds across Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds are 'local' level facilities that provide a limited range of equipment. As a result, they are unlikely to attract users from catchments much further than the current '400m walk' travel standard.

All playgrounds in Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds are traditional 'equipped' playgrounds that lack the elements of 'natural play' recommended by Council's *Play Strategy (2015)*.

² The playground at the Ballan Recreation Reserve was removed in 2018 due to its age and poor condition.

At least 3 playgrounds are located in small reserves that are unsigned, are not visible from roads and therefore serve only the properties within very close proximity to them:

- Gleneagles Court Reserve, Darley
- Silverdale Drive Reserve, Darley
- Barbara Court Reserve, Bacchus Marsh