

Help Council shape its Playground Strategy for the next 20 years

Council is seeking community feedback on its draft Playground Strategy 2023-2043, which guides all aspects of Council's playground management across the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA) for the next two decades.

At its Ordinary Meeting on Monday night (23 October), Wagga Wagga City Council endorsed placing the draft strategy on exhibition for 28 days, with submissions to be accepted until 7 December 2023.

Manager Recreation & Economic Development Ben Creighton is encouraging the community to get involved by having their say on the draft strategy.

"This strategy will shape the future of how we develop and manage our play spaces over the next 20 years, so it's important for the community to provide their input," Mr Creighton said.

"Wagga Wagga is a growing regional city, and we want to ensure our play spaces will meet the needs of the community now and into the future."

Council has 100 playgrounds across the LGA, valued at in excess of \$9.5 million and with a combined annual usage of approximately 500,000 visits.

The draft strategy aims to deliver high quality play spaces which are accessible, diverse, safe, and fun for children of all ages, and their caregivers, while also ensuring they can be financially supported by Council.

It includes 16 recommendations covering a range of actions required to be implemented to achieve the aims of the strategy.

Among these are increasing the annual playground maintenance budget, installing nonverbal communication boards at all suburban and regional playgrounds, and installing large regional level playgrounds in the city's southern and northern suburbs.

There is also a large focus on shade at playgrounds.

"We have six recommendations which directly relate to improving shade coverage at existing playgrounds and ensuring it's integrated in the planning of future play spaces," Mr Creighton said.

"This reflects the wishes of the community, who identified it is a key issue in the online survey conducted by council during the initial review of the Playgrounds Strategy 2016-2036.

"We have also heard their feedback about a water play/splash park for the city, with a recommendation that it be included in the planning for the Bolton Park Masterplan."

The draft Playground Strategy 2016-2036 is on exhibition from 9 November 2023 to 7 December 2023 at haveyoursay.wagga.nsw.gov.au

You can also view a copy of the draft strategy at the Customer Service desk at the Civic Centre.

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Media Opportunity

What: Council is keen to hear from the Wagga Wagga community about how we develop and manage our play spaces over the next two decades and wants their feedback on the draft Playground Strategy 2023-2043, which will be on public exhibition from 9 November to 7 December 2023.

Who: Council's Manager Recreation & Economic Development Ben Creighton.

When: Thursday 9 November at 10.30am.

Where: Riverside Precinct Playground, Wagga Beach, Johnston Street.

Contact 6926 9190 or media@wagga.nsw.gov.au

About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre, and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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