



Gladstone Regional Council

Council Policy

Title	PLAYGROUND POLICY
Policy Number	P-2014/30
Responsible Directorate	PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
Responsible Officer	MANAGER PARKS AND ENVIRONMENT
Date of Adoption	5 AUGUST 2014
Resolution Number	G/14/2111
Date Review Due	5 AUGUST 2017

1.0 PURPOSE

This policy sets out guidelines for the provision of all Council playgrounds.

2.0 OBJECTIVE

This policy will:-

- a) Assist Council to fulfil its corporate objectives in the provision of accessible, suitable and contemporary community recreational opportunities;
- b) Provide and develop playgrounds that align with the Parks Hierarchy framework, including higher level regional and district playgrounds as a key focus, with provision for local park playgrounds within urban locations as determined through planning scheme approvals and development applications;
- c) Ensure the appropriate allocation of resources and strategically review the locations of existing playgrounds to ensure there is provision for play within 1000m of residential homes in urban areas ;
- d) Ensure Council's Asset Management responsibilities are met;
- e) Allow for the provision of attractive, functional and safe playgrounds for the enjoyment of both residents and visitors to the Region;
- f) Allow for the provision of Green Space/Local Parks in high density housing areas within an approximate walking distance of 500m of residents;
- g) Discourage the location of playgrounds in parks that have an area less than 1Ha and where there is less than 50% of the boundary fronting a road reserve.

3.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to all playgrounds owned by Council. Any reference to "playgrounds" includes, but is not restricted to all play equipment, softfall areas, grounds, shade structures, associated garden beds and perimeter fencing.

4.0 RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

4.1 Standards and Commissions

AS 4685.1:2014 Playground Equipment and surfacing - General Safety Requirements and Test Methods (EN 1176- 1.2008, MOD)

AS 4685.2:2014 Playground Equipment and Surfacing - Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for swings (EN 1176-2:2008, MOD)

AS 4685.3:2014 Playground Equipment and Surfacing - Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for slides (EN 1176-3:2008, MOD)

AS 4685.4:2014 Playground Equipment and Surfacing - Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for cableways (EN 1176-4:2008, MOD)

AS 4685.5:2014 Playground Equipment and Surfacing - Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for carousels (EN 1176.5:2008, MOD)

AS 4685.6:2014 Playground Equipment and Surfacing - Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment.

Australian Standards that are still relevant to the provision of equipment within Council parks until such time as the equipment is removed are:-

AS/NZS 4422:1996 Playground surfacing - Specification, requirements and test method;
AS/NZS 4422 - 1966/AMDT 1 - 1999 Playground surfacing - Specifications, requirement and test method; and

AS/NZS 4486.1:1997 Playgrounds and Playground Equipment - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

5.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Gladstone Regional Council Corporate Standard Provision and Maintenance of Playgrounds

6.0 DEFINITIONS

To assist in interpretation of this standard, the following definitions apply:

"playground" means an area established for the opportunity for children of all ages and abilities to interact, learn, be physically challenged and to have fun. Council supports the provision of playgrounds that meet or exceed the requirements for unsupervised play within the region.

7.0 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

7.1 Existing Equipment

All existing playground equipment shall comply with all Australian Standards relevant at the date of installation.

7.2 Installation of New Equipment

All new playground equipment purchased and/or constructed shall comply with all current relevant Australian Standards and shall be installed in accordance with those Standards and any applicable manufacturer's instructions.

8.0 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

Council will maintain a Playground Equipment and Softfall Register.

9.0 MAINTENANCE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

The Technical Services Section of Parks and Environment is responsible for the maintaining of the Playground Equipment and Softfall Register.

10.0 STORAGE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND SOFTFALL RECORDS

A copy of the current Playground Equipment and Softfall Register is to be stored electronically on Council's Asset Management System (Conquest). Certificate of Compliance shall be stored in Council's Record Management System (ECM).

11.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PLAYGROUNDS

Council may resolve, additional to any Planning Scheme requirements, to make budgetary provision for the establishment of a new playground.

All new playgrounds shall be assessed for suitability of location based upon the hierarchy of parks and proximity to areas of high population growth or renewal of housing projects.

Playgrounds will also be assessed against the Playground Replacement Program schedule that has been developed to enable scheduled replacement of equipment based upon known life span in various environmental locations.

12.0 RENEWAL, RELOCATION AND REMOVALS OF PLAYGROUNDS

Council staff will establish renewal, relocation and removal schedules that will ensure the playgrounds remain in a safe, usable condition that meets the needs of the local community. When required due to safety inspection audit identification, playgrounds may require removal at short notice. Council will be advised as soon as possible of the circumstances and outcome.

13.0 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PLAYGROUNDS

Council may temporarily close a playground for the purpose of carrying out works of any kind.

14.0 ANNUAL BUDGETARY PROVISIONS

Council will make a provision in its Operational Plan and Annual Budget for the progressive replacement and/or upgrading of playground equipment.

15.0 INCIDENTS

Gladstone Regional Council will maintain records for playground related incidents that it receives from public and staff reports.

16.0 RESALE OR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Council will not sell or donate playground equipment that has been removed from service for re-use in any location.

17.0 SHADE

Council will provide natural shade wherever possible in preference to built shade structures. Built shade structures will only be considered where the establishment of trees is considered detrimental to other surrounding infrastructure, or trees have failed to thrive after repeated planting attempts by Parks and Environment staff.

18.0 FENCING

Council will not be required to fence off playground areas. However, if a playground is established close to a busy roadway, industrial installations or waterway a separation barrier should be installed to prevent direct access to the hazard. e.g. hedging, fencing (that complies with the Australian Standards).

19.0 SITING OF PLAYGROUNDS

Council will locate playgrounds after consideration of existing site conditions and design criteria to ensure safety and security of community and users.

20.0 AUDITING PLAYGROUNDS

Gladstone Regional Council shall complete an independent annual audit on all playground equipment within its region.

21.0 ATTACHMENTS

Nil

22.0 REVIEW TRIGGER:

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. The related legislation/documents are amended or replaced.
2. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by the CEO.
3. Periodic Review – 3 years from date of adoption.

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS		
Originally Adopted	5 AUGUST 2014	G/14/2111
Amendment 1	<INSERT DATE COUNCIL MEETING>	<INSERT RESOLUTION NUMBER>
Amendment 2	<INSERT DATE COUNCIL MEETING>	<INSERT RESOLUTION NUMBER>
Amendment 3	<INSERT DATE COUNCIL MEETING>	<INSERT RESOLUTION NUMBER>

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STUART RANDLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER