BETTER SUBURBS
PLAY SPACES
FORUM
MEMBER INFORMATION PACK

TRANSPORT CANBERRA AND CITY SERVICES
AUGUST 2018
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WELCOME

Thank you for taking part in the Better Suburbs Play Spaces Forum.

The aim of this Play Spaces Information Pack is to provide you with information about:

- The current provision of play spaces across Canberra
- How play spaces are currently managed
- Research and evidence on best practice in play spaces and their value to children’s development and enhancing community
- Community feedback on the quality and importance of play spaces
- The role of the Play Spaces Forum and decisions that the Forum will be making.

The intention is that this Forum will be the beginning of a new phase in community decision making about play spaces in Canberra.

Please read this Information Pack in preparation for your role in the Forum. More detailed information on play spaces will be provided through presentations, activities and displays on the day of the Forum.
THE BETTER SUBURBS PROGRAM

The Better Suburbs Play Spaces forum is part of the Better Suburbs program and will be held on the last day of a five day Better Suburbs Citizens’ Forum. The Better Suburbs Forum will develop a Better Suburbs Statement, to set the vision and priorities for improved delivery of city services in the ACT to 2030.

The aims of the Better Suburbs Forum (including the Play Space forum day) are as follows:

1. Produce the Better Suburbs Statement, including; a visionary statement to 2030; clear outcome statements which outline what is important to the community; and a statement of priorities for the four years to 2022.
2. Use the outcome statements to determine community recommendations on individual service areas – such as investment levels, community involvement and new approaches.
3. Develop Service Assessment Criteria for play spaces, determine where to prioritise the expenditure on play spaces from the Better Infrastructure Fund for 2018-19, and make recommendations on how the community and the ACT Government can work together in decision making about play spaces.
4. Demonstrate a deliberative approach to decision making for city services which will offer insights for the future.
5. Provide insights and feedback about how to improve community involvement in decision making on all city services.
THE PLAY SPACES FORUM

The Play Spaces Forum will be held on **Sunday 19 August 2018, from 9:00am to 4:30pm** at CIT Reid, 37 Constitution Ave, Canberra. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

A Citizens’ Forum is a form of **deliberative engagement**, with participants coming together for a period of time, being given credible and reliable information on the topic under review, discussing (deliberating) the subject at length and arriving at a shared view on the way forward.

Deliberative engagement is used to make shared decisions. The members of the Forum are a cross section of the Canberra community. The forum will be facilitated by democracyCo, a company with expertise in running deliberative engagement throughout Australia. Their website is [http://www.democracyco.com.au](http://www.democracyco.com.au).

There will be up to 65 members of the Play Spaces Forum including:

- The original members of the Better Suburbs Citizen’s Forum, which will already have met for four days to create a Better Suburbs Statement for Canberra (including six Community Council representatives, with all other Members having been randomly selected from the ACT community)

- Up to 11 additional members with a particular interest in play spaces.
FORUM OUTCOMES

There are a number of key outcomes the Forum will be working towards on the day. These have been carefully considered with an understanding of how much decision making is realistic for one day of deliberation. The outcomes are split between strategic and participatory budgeting. For the participatory budgeting outcomes, up to $1.9 million is available.

OUTCOME 1
CRITERIA DEVELOPMENT
The Forum Members will identify the criteria they feel should be applied to making decisions about play spaces, to guide decisions made by the Forum and future ACT Government decisions.

This outcome is crucial to guide future actions on play spaces and has significant potential to have a positive impact on how community priorities are incorporated into decisions on play spaces in Canberra into the future.

OUTCOME 2
RECOMMENDATIONS ON FUTURE ENGAGEMENT
The Forum will make recommendations on how the ACT Government should work with the community in making decisions about play spaces into the future.

This outcome is crucial to influence how the community works with the ACT Government in play space decision making and how the ACT Government can gain a true and representative understanding of community priorities moving forward.

OUTCOME 3
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PHASE 1 - DEFINING BUDGET CATEGORIES AND FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

Up to $1.9 million is available to be allocated by the Forum.

The Forum can decide to spend up to $1.9m with at least $1m on play spaces, as publicly announced by the Minister. If new play spaces are desired and proposed by the Forum, forum participants will be asked to identify similar valued assets to remove from the asset base.

TCCS will describe an option of four proposed categories, based on current needs and the benefit of each. You may or may not want to accept them.

The Forum can then decide:

1. Whether this option is valid to suit future needs for play space provision and amend it if not
2. The amount of funding allocated to each category
3. Which community members should be a part of the panel to identify specific locations or details for each category
4. What criteria (from Outcome 1) should be provided to the panel to guide their decisions for each category
5. What forms of engagement (from Outcome 2) should be used to complete the process for each category.

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By the end of the day, the categories for spending and the amounts allocated for each category will be decided by the Forum.

The proposed categories that will be presented at the Forum by TCCS are:

**CATEGORY 1: District play spaces for new, nature-play playgrounds.** This would add to the mix of play opportunities within these “destination” play spaces which serve wide catchments of the ACT population. *Approximate cost = $175,000 per playground.*

**CATEGORY 2: Local suburbs for whole of suburb play reviews** through local engagement and initial designs. Many Canberra suburbs have a large number of playgrounds with high work scores, meaning they are in aged condition. This category will look at the suburb holistically to get a good mix of spaces across the suburb to better meet the community’s needs. Budget proposals will be submitted to implement the initial design plans in 2019-20. *Approximate cost = $75,000 per suburb.*

**CATEGORY 3: Amenity upgrades for play spaces across Canberra.** Funding to be allocated to a variety of amenity upgrades through an open, public grants process. Upgrades may include: shade, seating, landscaping, furniture and paths. Amenity upgrades can improve the experience for a range of visitors, including children of all ages, adults, older Canberrans and children and adults with disabilities. A preliminary “price list” of amenity upgrades will be provided.

**CATEGORY 4: Refresh work on existing play spaces.** Funding to deliver essential refresh work to protect the condition of a large number of ageing play spaces that are structurally sound but tired. This work will extend their service life by 5-6 years, and improve their aesthetics. The selection of play spaces will be based on the TCCS condition reports. *Approximate cost = $30,000 per play space.*
PLAY SPACE CONCEPTS AND PRACTICES

At the Forum a play space expert will present to the group about current international best practices, theories and benefits of play spaces. Following is some introductory information about current play space theory. At the end of this Information Pack is a section of useful links, which includes some local council play space strategies, research articles and videos.

PLAYGROUND VERSES PLAY SPACE

A play space refers to the whole environment designated for play, not just the play equipment and soft fall. A play space could be any purpose built setting for children’s play, which may include mounds, open grassed areas, sand, water, seats and picnic tables, paths, logs, rocks, plants and trees which offer varied opportunities for play. A play space may also include other activities such as ping pong tables, basketball hoops or skate paths, integrated with other community amenities such as seating and the natural environment.

The Forum may identify other ideas to be included in play spaces in Canberra outside of the traditional ‘playground’ model.

Different types of play space environments are being designed and influenced by research and childhood development needs. The term play space recognises that quality play provision is not simply about play equipment.

The term ‘playground’ is still in use for certain applications, for operational purposes. The term ‘playground’ is used by ACT Government to benchmark with other Local Government Authorities to share and compare information to measure performance and drive future improvements. The Yardstick Parks Benchmarking Report description for playgrounds is provided below.

“A playground is an area with purpose built children’s playground equipment present predominantly for young children. A playground may have just one single item of equipment or several items located together. Where there is a large park there may be more than one playground on the site. A playground contains equipment predominantly anchored to the ground. A playground is not adult exercise equipment, fallen tree trunks left on parks, skateboard facilities, bike or BMX facilities”.

Similarly, the Yardstick Parks Benchmarking Report has a separate definition for youth facilities designed for use primarily by older teenagers (can also be used by other age groups), which includes skate parks, basketball half courts and enclosed ball courts such as volleyball and lacrosse.

For the work of the Play Spaces Forum, there is no need to be limited by the Yardstick description. The Forum is looking at play spaces, which can be much broader and more holistic in their offering than just the playground equipment.

The forum may identify other ideas to be included as play spaces in Canberra outside of the traditional “playground” equipment model. The terms play space and playground are both used throughout this Information Pack, with playground referring more to the fixed traditional play equipment.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY FOR CHILDREN

Play is essential to the health and wellbeing of all children. Play is a non-prescribed, open activity without adult direction. Through play, children learn how to interact with each other, express themselves and
explore their environment. Play supports growth in creativity and imagination, builds emotional, creative, sensory and cognitive development, physical strength, coordination and balance. Children play in many different ways according to their own interests and abilities.

**RISK TAKING**

There is a difference between healthy risk taking behaviour and hazards. Play spaces should be hazard free but allow minor risk taking opportunities. Research highlights the benefits of risk and challenge to build confidence and achievement. Risk free environments are found to inhibit the development of decision making skills and judgement.

**TYPES OF PLAY**

Children have a range of play preferences. Play spaces can include opportunities for:

- **Active Play**: using fixed equipment for swinging, climbing, and hanging, balancing, jumping, stepping, and sliding.
- **Imaginative and Creative Play**: made up games or role playing.
- **Social Play**: Communicating and interacting with other children that focus on language and cooperation.
- **Exploratory and Natural Play**: Using plants, rocks, sand and trees to explore to stimulate the imagination.
- **Quiet Play**: reading, talking or playing a sit down game. Some children prefer to quietly observe other children before joining in.
- **Free Play**: grassed areas spaces and slopes for activities rolling, running, informal ball games, cartwheels, somersaults, handstands.

**CATERING FOR TEENAGERS**

Consultations across Australia show a trend in dissatisfaction with the options available for teenagers. Young people use open space for skateboarding, bike riding, unstructured sport or spending time with friends. Play space structures may include seating or mounds for gathering and socialising, activities with friends such as basket swings, challenges such as ropes or walls for climbing and informal sporting facilities such as basketball hoops, hit-up walls and paths for informal skating or scooting.

**ADULTS**

Adults also use play spaces. Some equipment should be designed and developed for adults to use with their children or for their own enjoyment. Design standards consider loadings and structural requirements to withstand use by adults. The importance of play spaces for social interaction can be considered in design, as can comfort for adults when caring for children, in terms of seating, shade etc.

**ACCESSIBILITY**

An accessible play space is designed for children and adults with a range of disabilities. Consideration should be given to access and inclusion and a variety of experiences, with an emphasis on activities, creative play and access to social areas.

**INTERGENERATIONAL SPACES**

Intergenerational spaces offer value for all ages - children, young people, parents, carers and older adults. Intergenerational design builds healthy community interaction and social benefit. Play space facilities can

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be designed with multiple purposes, such as large steps for toddlers to practice climbing, young people to use as a theatre and older adults as a gathering space.

**NATURAL PLAY SPACES**

The following information is from Nature Play CBR. More details can be found at [http://www.natureplaycbr.org.au/](http://www.natureplaycbr.org.au/).

Natural play spaces are rich in nature-based, open-ended experiences that give children, families and communities an opportunity to connect with nature and each other.

**Benefits of natural play spaces**

- Children who play regularly in natural settings are sick less often. Mud, sand, water, leaves, sticks, pine cones and gum nuts can help to stimulate children’s immune system as well as their imagination.
- Children who spend more time outside tend to be more physically active and less likely to be overweight.
- Children who play in natural settings are more resistant to stress; have lower incidence of behavioural disorders, anxiety and depression; and have a higher measure of self-worth.
- Children who play in natural settings play in more diverse, imaginative and creative ways and show improved language and collaboration skills. Single use, repetitive play equipment becomes boring quickly.
- Natural, irregular and challenging spaces help kids learn to recognise, assess and negotiate risk and build confidence and competence.
- Children who play in nature have more positive feelings about each other.
- Bullying behaviour is greatly reduced where children have access to diverse nature-based play environments.
- Symptoms of Attention Deficit Disorder are reduced after contact with nature.
CURRENT PROVISION IN CANBERRA

The ACT has a higher than average provision of playgrounds. A 2017 national benchmark identified 5.2 playgrounds per 1000 children under 15. The ACT has 6.7 playgrounds per 1000 children under 15.

There are 512 play spaces in the ACT, including 505 in urban areas.

26,000 safety inspections are conducted per year in accordance with national playground standards.

ACT play spaces are split into 3 categories:

**Local** are smaller and generally provided in residential areas within a 400 metre radius of 95% of all residences. The target age range is between 0-9 years old.

**Central** are located to serve a whole suburb. These provide a more diverse, physically challenging range of equipment targeted at 0-14 year olds.

**District** are the largest play spaces that serve the most people and typically contain the greatest number of amenities. These are the largest play spaces that serve the greatest number of users and people often travel from a wide catchment of the ACT to visit them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>LOCAL</th>
<th>CENTRAL</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BELCONNEN</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUNGAHLIN</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNER NORTH</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNER SOUTH</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOLONGLO</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUGGERANONG</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WODEN WESTON</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>434</strong></td>
<td><strong>57</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>505</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In additional to the 505 ACT play spaces identified above, there are also seven rural play spaces in the ACT in locations such as Tidbinbilla, Cotter etc. There are some play spaces under the jurisdiction of the National Capital Authority such as Commonwealth Park and Boundless Playground.

There are also five major skate parks and 16 parks that have skate features. Skate parks are available for use by all skateboarders, cyclists, scooters and roller bladers. The major skate parks are suitable for all levels of use with the other 12 skate features aimed at the more novice skaters and riders.

The majority of Canberra’s playgrounds are more than 20 years old and are providing limited play opportunity. Even though they may appear old, regular safety inspections are conducted at all playground to ensure that a safe play environment (hazard fee) is provided.

Safety inspections are regularly conducted to ensure they remain safe and fit for play.

Visual inspections are undertaken by ACT Property Group. Local play spaces are inspected fortnightly, Central weekly and District twice a week. Visual inspections check for vandalism, sharps and obvious
faults with any of the equipment and basic repairs are carried out at the time. Litter is collected and bark is raked into the heavy use areas such as under swings and slides.

Operational inspections are undertaken monthly to bi-monthly depending on use. This is a more detailed inspection during which the equipment is tested for operation, wear and tear, deterioration and any other faults.

Compliance audits are also conducted annually as each playground varies in age and condition. These audits are completed by an independent assessor to inspect the playgrounds against the current Australian Playground standards.

CURRENT MANAGEMENT OF PLAYGROUNDS

Maintenance and refurbishment is prioritised over building more play spaces. This includes minor works such as replacing/repairing items of play equipment that are broken, vandalised or at end of life. Repainting playgrounds, refurbishing decks and topping up soft-fall occurs to bring the play spaces back to life and make them safe and more inviting.

New larger capacity play spaces are only planned to be provided as upgrades to existing play spaces in areas with significant growth and demand. (e.g. planned urban densification – ACT Planning Strategy).

The current approach is for resources to be focused on providing larger, more diverse play spaces at strategic locations, with local play spaces focusing more on open space play rather than equipment.

Play spaces are prioritised for upgrade on an annual basis.

505 playgrounds are inspected at least fortnightly with repairs carried out as required.

KEY CHALLENGES

Should refurbishment works be prioritised above building more playgrounds?

Should we be looking at providing more diversity play across a whole suburb rather than looking at individual local play spaces?

Should a new play space be offset with existing aged playgrounds in the local catchment?

How would the community feel about removing or not refurbishing the playground opposite their houses to enable a quality play space upgrade somewhere in the neighbourhood?
ACT PLAYGROUND PROVISION – A COMPARISON

Like many of our city services, Canberra has a much higher than average provision of playgrounds for our population size. There are number of reasons for this, including the geographical spread of Canberra and the legacy of playgrounds that were handed over at the time of self-government.

This high provision of playgrounds results in considerable budgetary pressure due to the need for maintenance and safety of the existing assets.

For this reason, the Forum may consider that decisions should result in no net increase in the number of playgrounds. Rather it will be useful to look at the quality of play provided and even opportunities for consolidation of playgrounds within local areas in return for increased diversity of play experiences, which is where the term ‘play space’ may be of value.

Here is a comparison of the ACT provision with some Sydney councils:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LGA or ACT</th>
<th>Number of play spaces</th>
<th>Approximate population</th>
<th>Number of people per play space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wollongong</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>208,000</td>
<td>1342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>77,000</td>
<td>1013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>205,000</td>
<td>2135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacktown</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>337,000</td>
<td>1142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waverley</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>71,769</td>
<td>1794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randwick</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>143,776</td>
<td>2765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penrith</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>194,134</td>
<td>1387</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

By comparison, the ACT provision of play opportunities for teenagers is lower than average. The Yardstick Benchmark report 2017 showed that the ACT had 1.1 youth facilities per 1000 children and the median for Australia is 1.9 per 1000 children. These facilities may include skate parks, half size basketball courts and enclosed ball courts.
## Expectations for Each Classification in the ACT

The table outlines what should be provided in play spaces at the local, central and district level. These may help you in your evaluation of existing play spaces. For example, there are some elements of equipment and amenity that are not suitable for provision in local play spaces.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Central (Including CRIP)</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Character</td>
<td>Every play space should be part of a ‘package’ with a diverse range of options in a suburb.</td>
<td>Play spaces should complement others of the same classification across each Region.</td>
<td>Should be specially designed to the setting, with character sympathetic to the landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Play activities may include natural elements without formal play equipment.</td>
<td>Central community play spaces in the same catchment should have different, elements, style and character.</td>
<td>All should differ from one another in terms of character and the range of play activities, especially adjacent district parks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Associated with shopping centres, community ‘hub’ or other central community facilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Should be specially designed to the setting, with character sympathetic to the landscape.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All should differ from one another in terms of character and the range of play activities, especially adjacent district parks.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>Level of development will vary from site to site.</td>
<td>A higher quality finish is expected than for local play spaces. More attention to landscape details required.</td>
<td>Design of the site requires more attention to detail in accessibility, site levels, materials, edging, surfacing, paths, garden beds, shade, seating etc than other parks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility for People with Disabilities</td>
<td>Disability access into the park and to some play activities is important but due to the legacy nature of these facilities will only be addressed through major upgrades.</td>
<td>Access to the site, from car parking, into the park and to a range of play activities is expected.</td>
<td>Access to the site from car parking, into the park, and to all facilities is required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For minor upgrades, replacement and maintenance, attention should be paid to accessible routes into the park, activity area and social spaces.</td>
<td>Accessible route into the park and main activity area and social spaces is required.</td>
<td>Picnic facilities and toilets must be usable by people in wheelchairs. Toilets should have family cubicle with adult sized change benches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional consideration for local children with a disability, when identified through consultation.</td>
<td>A portion of play activities should cater for users with a disability with emphasise social and creative activities.</td>
<td>Range play activities should be accessible for children and adults.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Should cater for 0- 18 years of age.</td>
<td>A choice between busy/active and quieter spaces should be available and accessible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target age groups</td>
<td>The whole precinct considered as a ‘package’ with a choice of play spaces for ages 0-9 across suburbs.</td>
<td>Should cater for 0- 14 years. Play spaces should cater for all age groups but some sites may emphasise particular age groupings.</td>
<td>Should cater for 0- 18 years of age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Recreation activities for adults such as fitness equipment may also be provided.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>LOCAL</th>
<th>CENTRAL (INCLUDING CRIP)</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amenities</td>
<td>• Amenities are low key.</td>
<td>• This level is variable and allows for design discretion.</td>
<td>• Amenities need to accommodate the needs of large numbers of visitors for visits of many hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Seating and summer shade is</td>
<td>• A path system, drinking water, rubbish bins, a choice of seats and tables in shade where possible.</td>
<td>• Usually contain recreational facilities for the entire family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>important. Trees are the main</td>
<td>• Shade from built structure sometimes appropriate.</td>
<td>• Car parking, a path system, accessible toilets, shade and shelter, BBQs, drinking water and a choice of seats are required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>source of shade.</td>
<td>• Toilets and BBQ may be appropriate in some circumstances.</td>
<td>• Options to arrive by car, bike and foot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A basic path system is</td>
<td>• Options to arrive by car, bike and foot. Car parking is</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>usually required for users</td>
<td>necessary and may be shared with other facilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>arriving on foot or by bicycle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and access from a local</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>street.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• BBQs, car parking and toilets are not expected.</td>
<td>• Toilets and BBQ may be appropriate in some circumstances.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Options to arrive by car, bike and foot.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Elements</td>
<td>• Local play spaces need a</td>
<td>• Play spaces to provide a diversity of physical, creative and imaginative play settings for 0-14 years and families.</td>
<td>• The 'package' of attractions is an important feature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>diversity of low key play for 0-9 years, adaptable for children as they grow.</td>
<td>• A combination of customised landscape and customised built elements combined with off the shelf products.</td>
<td>• Play spaces need to provide a diversity of physical, creative, social and imaginative play for all ages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Budgets for local play</td>
<td>• Must provide good play value with elements for imaginative and fantasy play and loose materials from the environment to complement built structures.</td>
<td>• Some custom designed elements will be expected to create a distinctive space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>spaces are the most limited and off the shelf play equipment should be complemented with tree planting and landscaping to maximise play value.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• The provision of play journeys will be promoted where play spaces are located around a lake or other features.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Should offer a diversity of choices within the same suburb.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and Maintenance</td>
<td>• Inspections and maintenance must be regular but frequency varies depending on usage.</td>
<td>• Require more intensive management than local.</td>
<td>• Frequent inspections, minimum weekly, but possibly daily in busy times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and Maintenance</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Regular inspections and maintenance with frequency determined by usage, and sometimes seasons.</td>
<td>• Visual inspections of surfaces, check for loose items, vandalism, broken glass etc. Higher degree of wear and tear will be expected than other sites.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TCCS FUNDING TOWARDS PLAY SPACES

Recurrent Funding – Assessment, Planning & Maintenance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>1,147,905</td>
<td>1,205,765</td>
<td>1,387,918</td>
<td>1,258,952</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capital Funding (Commonwealth & ACT Government Funded):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>2,360,000</td>
<td>577,000</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LOCAL PLAY SPACES AND EXAMPLES

There are currently 434 local play spaces in the ACT. Local play spaces generally cater for 0-9 years of age. These are smaller play spaces in residential areas. 95% of all residences in the ACT are located within 400 metres of a local play space.

RUTHERFORD STREET, AINSLIE

JAEGAR COURT, BRUCE
CENTRAL PLAY SPACES AND EXAMPLES

There are currently 57 Central play spaces in the ACT. They are often located close to shops. These cater for 0-14 years of age, with some offering options for older visitors. They provide more diverse and physically challenging equipment than local play spaces. 95% of all residences are located within a one kilometre radius of a central play space. They sometimes include infrastructure such as shade sails, barbeques, picnic tables, shelters, toilets and basketball courts and local skate bowls.

BAYLY PLACE, MACARTHUR

BURGOYNE STREET, BONYTHON

There are also three CRIPs (Central Recreation Irrigated Park) in Canberra and these are classed as Central play spaces. CRIPs have play equipment, fitness equipment, toilets, BBQ’s, shelters, open irrigated grass areas, other sporting elements such soccer cages, hit up walls and table tennis tables. The CRIPs are generally located in newer areas with higher density living and are currently provided at Crace, Moncrieff and Franklin. Interestingly, in a recent PLAY audit commissioned by City Renewal Authority, the CRIP at Moncrieff was found to be the 6th most popular playground in Canberra, ahead of the majority of District play spaces, even though it is only classified at a Central play space.

MONCRIEFF CRIP
DISTRICT PLAY SPACES AND EXAMPLES

There are currently 14 District play spaces in Canberra. District play spaces provide facilities for a number of suburban areas and cater for all age ranges from 0-14 with elements for all ages. District play spaces are unique, offering a more extensive range of play opportunities and a greater element of challenge than local and central play spaces. They cater for group or family visits for up to a day in duration and provide facilities such as bubblers, shade sails, BBQ’s, shelters, toilets, car parks and open spaces with large amount of trees. Some are irrigated. They generally have some form of sport elements such as basketball courts, fitness equipment, bike learn-to-ride circuits and skate ramps, or are located near major skate parks.

YERRABI POND, GUNGAHLIN

JOHN KNIGHT MEMORIAL PARK, BELCONNEN
CROSS-GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION

The Play Spaces Forum is an initiative of TCCS, however it is important to look at play spaces from a whole-of-government perspective. A number of ACT Government Directorates have a role in play spaces. In order to ensure close collaboration, a cross-agency collaboration group has been formed. This group has met in the lead-up to the Play Spaces Forum. The intention is that the group will continue to meet following the Forum to:

- Share ideas
- Share updates on play spaces actions
- Share engagement and consultation results
- Seek to ensure the work that we all do is reflective of the community priorities you define at the Play Spaces Forum
- Seek to engage the community in the way the Play Space Forum has recommended.

Following is a list of the areas represented in this group and the connection they have to play spaces:

- **Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS)** is responsible for the management of almost all Canberra play spaces. New play spaces that are built by developers in new suburbs or by other ACT Government Directorates are gifted to TCCS to manage.
  - Capital Works consults, designs and implements replacement and upgraded play spaces.
  - City Presentation cleans, maintains and renews existing play spaces.
- **Education and Training Directorate (EDU)**. Schools often provide play spaces and other recreational facilities such as basketball courts that are accessible to the community outside of school hours. Some school facilities are fenced and some are open. EDU also has essential expertise on childhood development and best practice.
- **Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate**
  - Suburban Land Agency (SLA) delivers people-focused residential estates and urban renewal projects in Canberra, which also includes consultation and development for play spaces within the development areas.
- **Chief Ministers, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate**
  - City Renewal Authority (CRA) is responsible for renewal in the city centre. Where play spaces are part of a renewal area CRA delivers engagement with the community to plan and build those play spaces.
  - Nature Play CBR is an ACT Government initiative established to increase the time children spend in unstructured play outdoors and in nature.
  - Economic Development, Healthy and Active Living is developing a Healthy and Active Living Strategy; a whole-of-government approach to working with people, communities, organisations, business and the education and research sectors to create the right environments that promote healthy and active living.
- **Justice and Community Safety, Children and Young People’s Commission** is providing an advisory role to Better Suburbs for best practice for engagement and participation of children and young people.

PLEASE NOTE: Additional areas are likely to be represented as the group identifies new opportunities for collaboration.
OUR CHANGING POPULATION

Canberra has developed from the original planned city of 75,000 people to an innovative, inclusive and modern city, with over 400,000 residents. Canberra is the fastest growing city in Australia and our residents are the most physically active and culturally engaged in Australia. In the next few decades, Canberra will change further with a denser population base, different housing choices, new light rail and improved bus networks, and a projected population of 500,000 by 2033.

As the ACT grows so does the demand for services and infrastructure. Meeting community needs whilst addressing financial sustainability presents an ongoing challenge.

This expansion of the city will lead to new urban areas as well as increased population density in existing areas.

- By 2022, the Molonglo and North Canberra districts of Canberra are projected to have the youngest populations of the Territory, where the populations of Belconnen, Weston Creek and Tuggeranong are projected to age rapidly.
- The Gungahlin District is projected to have a significant proportion of both the youngest and oldest cohorts in the Territory.

The ACT also has an increasingly diverse population. We need to ensure that the needs of all of our residents.

A SNAPSHOT OF 100 PEOPLE IN THE ACT - 1976 TO 2018:

Source: Based on 1976 Census and 2016 Census, subject to refinement.
WHAT DOES THE CANBERRA COMMUNITY THINK ABOUT OUR PLAY SPACES?

PLAY: CANBERRA DESTINATION PLAYGROUNDS STUDY

This study has recently been produced by the Play, Creativity and Wellbeing Project, Centre for Creative and Cultural Research, University of Canberra for the City Renewal Authority, ACT Government.

The full report will be provided to the forum members. It is recommended as reading for Forum. Following is a summary of the key messages in the report.

A high number of people responded to engagement activities as part of the audit of playgrounds. An online survey was completed by 958 people. 412 people provided face to face feedback at activities.

The destination playgrounds considered as a part of the study are listed below. Those with an asterisk (*** ) are District play spaces in scope for Outcome 3 of the Play Spaces Forum, which will be outlined later in this Information Pack.

1. Black Mountain, Acton ***
2. Boundless Playground, Barton
3. John Knight Memorial Playground, Belconnen***
4. Kambah Adventure playground, Kambah***
5. Pod Playground, Arboretum
6. Tuggeranong Town Centre Park Playground***
7. Weston Park, Yarralumla***
8. Yerrabi Pond, Gungahlin***

Following is a summary of the general feedback from the study.

The most visited playgrounds in Canberra:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Playgrounds in Canberra</th>
<th>Number who selected as most visited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boundless Playground, Parkes</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pod Playground, Arboretum</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Knight Memorial Park, Belconnen</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kambah Adventure Playground, Kambah</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weston Park, Yarralumla</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Recreation Park, Moncrieff</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yerrabi Pond District Park, Gungahlin</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fadden Pines</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground near Chifley Shops</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Mountain Peninsula Park, Acton</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

◆ www.yoursay.act.gov.au/BetterSuburbs ◆ tccs.bettersuburbs@act.gov.au
Respondents were asked whether they would prefer to have a number of small playgrounds in their suburb, or fewer but higher quality playgrounds in their suburb. The overarching majority (84%) responded that they would prefer fewer and better quality playgrounds.

Some respondents utilise playgrounds to challenge their children physically and emotionally – through engagement with challenging equipment and through other forms of risky play. There is a clear demand from respondents for more playgrounds that encourage this kind of play.

“Please, much more challenging and interesting and less risk averse activities. Stop being scared that parents will sue the government if someone gets injured.”

Respondents are as likely to socialise with friends at playgrounds as they are to socialise with family. Indeed, socialising was ranked by many as an ‘important’ (41%) or ‘very important’ (17%) element of their playground visits.
The vast majority of respondents like the number and range of playgrounds available in Canberra. Visitors enjoy the different types of equipment and play experiences on offer in Canberra’s playgrounds.

However, a number of respondents felt that Canberra’s playgrounds were poor when compared with playgrounds in other states in Australia, and overseas.

One resounding message from respondents is their concern with the disparity in maintenance and upgrading between the newer playgrounds (mostly in new suburbs) and the older local playgrounds in Canberra.

There was a significant percentage asking for more equipment for very young children (toddlers), and for older children.

“I’d like to see some things for older children in the middle years. What about putting up some simple walls where kids can hit balls against, or basketball hoops, or bike paths that are more interesting.”

The single most outstanding recommendation from respondents was for more shade in Canberra playgrounds.

A significant proportion of respondents asked for more nature play.

The fourth largest recommended change is for more and better facilities – particularly toilets, seating, BBQs and rubbish bins. Many people also requested greater access to drinking water.

After shade, fences were the most requested single item for playgrounds in Canberra.

**Recommended changes to playgrounds:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended changes to playground</th>
<th>Number of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Types of equipment</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More shade</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better/more facilities (BBQ, toilet, tables, seats)</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural features and nature play</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fences</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More and better equipment for very young children/toddlers</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More and better equipment for older children/teens/adults</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proximity to café/shops</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenging/adventure/risky play</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

◆ www.yoursay.act.gov.au/BetterSuburbs ◆ tccs.bettersuburbs@act.gov.au
The following is a summary of recommendations for current and future playgrounds from the study:

1. Shade, age-appropriate enclosures and extreme weather protection
2. More challenging and diverse forms of play
3. More and better facilities
4. Equipment for a wider range of ages
5. Natural features
6. Make larger, quality playgrounds NOT more, smaller playgrounds
7. Improve older playgrounds
8. Proximity
FEEDBACK ON PLAY SPACES FROM THE BETTER SUBURBS SURVEY

Following are some snapshots of information from the 2017 Better Suburbs survey that relate to play spaces. While these snapshots will give you some information, it is recommended that you access the full report at www.yoursay.act.gov.au/BetterSuburbs.

- **Top 5 Features that Contribute Most to a Great Suburb**
  - Access to Shopping Precincts
  - Access to Parks and Amenities
  - Safe and Connected Footpaths
  - Maintained Trees and Shrubs
  - Maintained and Connected Roads

- **Importance and Satisfaction of Services (Rating out of 5.0)**

  - Parks and public amenity
  - Waste management
  - Trees and shrubs
  - Shopping precincts
  - Construction and maintenance of roads
  - Construction and maintenance of footpaths and cycle paths
  - Street lighting
  - Traffic management
  - Recreational facilities
  - Stormwater management
  - Domestic animal services
  - Library services

- **Canberra needs more proper recreational parks in the suburbs – I am not talking about a bit of tanbark, a playground and very occasionally a bit of shade cloth. We need proper mown grass, shade trees and facilities where kids, young people, friends and families can meet. Yes, there is a park at the end of Gungahlin ponds, John Knight Park etc. but we need parks in the suburbs that are easily accessible by foot or bike. This is particularly important given that our city is being destroyed by the Government building an ever-increasing number of apartments and reducing both the size and number of available detached housing blocks. These parks need to be MAINTAINED. Properly and regularly mown.**
PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

- It is great to see so much work happening – installing shade cloths over playgrounds. Thank you!
- Canberra is a great place to live but we can be even better – there are cost savings and economic benefits to be maximised from great and lots more playgrounds and public infrastructure.
- I would like a nice park around Jerrabomberra Creek.
- Upgrades of outdoor recreational facilities including parks, playgrounds and picnic areas are required across Torrens ACT.
- The parks in Turner suffer from drastic underinvestment.
- We need better playgrounds and nicer park areas. Overall I consider that west Belconnen suburbs remain good places to live. Some parks do need attention, so that they are better play areas including for older kids and teenagers.
- Chisholm needs to be looked at, local parks are a joke. We see all the money going into parks in Gungahlin and newer suburbs and the older ones are forgotten. It’s very disappointing.
- Playgrounds in ACT need a revamp, not inspiring to encourage kids to play and not climate sheltered at all. No parks in our area – we need to encourage kids to get out and play safely.
- I would love to see playgrounds at my local shops, it is quite a big centre and is always busy. Outdoor seating, public space and a playground help to build the community.
- Torrens playgrounds require an update to bring them up to speed with other suburbs in Woden. The playgrounds have not been updated since the suburb was established. Moreover, since the development of a new early learning centre at Torrens shops, access to an existing playground has been removed, further diminishing access to urban spaces for children.
- Lyons shops needs a playground! There are so many wonderful young families here that would use it.
- Would really love to have the old and potentially dangerous kids playgrounds upgraded in our suburb.
- Would be great to have better playground facilities – suburbs often have a few minor playgrounds with a swing or a slide, or schools with big gates that you can’t access, but if you want to go to a decent kids playground you often have to drive, park etc – takes away from kids’ time exercising.
- Please consider upgrades to playgrounds in Torrens as the local children do not have any modern, sizeable playgrounds in the area. The local school now has a fence surrounding it and that playground can no longer be used by the public.
- Pearce and Torrens are in urgent need of rejuvenation of recreational facilities, specifically playgrounds.
- Please update play equipment in Fisher.

18% want more infrastructure but with reduced quality standard and a lower standard of servicing
82% want less infrastructure across the suburb but of a higher quality and of higher standard of service

It would be fantastic to see a skate park and youth recreational area (i.e. basketball court) built in Telopea Park where the existing half pipe is. Currently Telopea Park seems to only cater for young children and adults. Good skate parks are a great way to keep young people active (off computer screens!) as well as giving them an opportunity to create a community of like-minded enthusiasts!
MAKING DECISIONS AT THE FORUM

There are a number of key outcomes that you, as a group, will be working towards on the day.

OUTCOME 1: CRITERIA DEVELOPMENT

The Forum Members will identify the criteria they feel should be applied to making decisions about play spaces, to guide decisions made by the Forum and future ACT Government decisions.

This outcome is crucial to guide future actions on play spaces and has significant potential to have a positive impact on how community priorities are incorporated into decisions on play spaces in Canberra into the future.

OUTCOME 2: RECOMMENDATIONS ON FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

The Forum will make recommendations on how the ACT Government should work with the community in making decisions about play spaces into the future.

This outcome is crucial to influence how the community works with the ACT Government in play space decision making and how the ACT Government can gain a true and representative understanding of community priorities moving forward.

OUTCOME 3: PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

DEFINING BUDGET CATEGORIES AND FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

Up to $1.9 million is available to be allocated by the Forum.

The Forum can decide to spend up to $1.9m with at least $1m on play spaces, as publicly announced by the Minister. If new play spaces are desired and proposed by the Forum, forum participants will be asked to identify similar valued assets to remove from the asset base.

TCCS will describe an option of four proposed categories, based on current needs and the benefit of each category for the community and for the effective management of the play space asset base. TCCS will also present suggested funding amounts for each category. You may or may not want to accept them.

The Forum can then decide:

1. Whether this option is valid to suit future needs for play space provision and amend it if not.
2. The amount of funding allocated to each category
3. Which community members should be a part of the panel to identify specific locations or details for each category
4. What criteria (from Outcome 1) should be provided to the panel to guide their decisions for each category
5. What forms of engagement (from Outcome 2) should be used to complete the process for each category.

By the end of the day, the categories for spending and the amounts allocated for each category will be decided by the Forum.
The proposed categories that will be presented by TCCS are:

**CATEGORY 1: District play spaces for new, nature-play playgrounds.** This would add to the mix of play opportunities within these “destination” play spaces which serve wide catchments of the ACT population. Nature play offers many developmental benefits for children. The nature-play playgrounds will also serve a community education purpose by using signage and design to guide parents, carers, teacher and group leaders on the value and types of nature play.

*Approximate cost = $175,000 per playground.*

**FORUM TO DECIDE:**
- Whether these four categories capture all options for play space provision
- Amount allocated to this category and estimated number of play spaces
- Which community members should be a part of the panel to identify specific locations
- What criteria (from Outcome 1) should be provided to the community panel to guide their location
- What forms of engagement (from Outcome 2) should be used to complete this process.

**CATEGORY 2: Local suburbs for whole of suburb play reviews** through local engagement and initial designs. Many Canberra suburbs have a large number of playgrounds with high work scores, meaning they are in aged condition. There is also poor diversity of play opportunities across these suburbs, with the same few pieces of equipment repeated. This category will look at the suburb holistically to get a good mix of spaces across the suburb to better meet the community’s needs. Budget proposals will be submitted to implement the initial design plans in 2019-20.

*Approximate cost = $75,000 per suburb for local engagement and initial design to budget proposal.*

**FORUM TO DECIDE:**
- Amount allocated to this category and number of local suburbs to receive work
- Which community members should be a part of the panel to identify specific locations and oversee the local engagement
- What criteria (from Outcome 1) should be provided to the community panel to guide their location
- What forms of engagement (from Outcome 2) should be used to complete this process.

**CATEGORY 3: Amenity upgrades for play spaces across Canberra.** Funding to be allocated to a variety of amenity upgrades through an open, public grants process. Upgrades may include: shade, seating, landscaping, furniture and paths. Amenity upgrades can improve the experience for a range of visitors, including children of all ages, adults, older Canberrans and children and adults with disabilities.

*Approximate cost = a preliminary “price list” of amenity upgrades will be provided.*

**FORUM TO DECIDE:**
- Amount allocated to this category
- Which community members should be a part of the panel to review applications and allocate amenity upgrades
- What criteria (from Outcome 1) should be provided to the community panel to guide their decisions
- What forms of engagement (from Outcome 2) should be used to complete this process.
CATEGORY 4: Refresh work on existing play spaces. Funding to deliver essential refresh work to protect the condition of a large number of ageing play spaces that are structurally sound but tired. This work will extend their service life by 5-6 years, and improve their aesthetics. The selection of play spaces will be based on the TCCS condition reports.

Approximate cost = $30,000 per play space.

FORUM TO DECIDE:

- Amount to be allocated to this category and estimated number of play spaces to be refreshed.

Specific locations for each category and details of design and engagement will be decided by a panel of community members established by the Forum in the months following the Forum.

The following pages explain the six outcomes in more detail.
OUTCOME 1. CRITERIA DEVELOPMENT

The Forum will identify the criteria that should be applied to making decisions about play spaces. This criteria can be used to guide decisions on the day of the Forum but more importantly, they will be useful for play space decisions into the future. They will help the ACT Government have a better understanding of what the community defines as a play space and what the community would like to see in their play spaces.

SOME CONSIDERATIONS:

- How does the community define quality in regards to play spaces?
- What are the community’s criteria in terms of access for all abilities?
- Should we be looking at individual local play spaces or look at offering diversity of play experiences across a suburb?
- Should play spaces cater for older children? What about adults?
- What additional amenity does the community value to make the whole experience more pleasant?
- What kind of activities can be offered in a play space? Is it all about traditional playground equipment or are there other options and ideas?
- What is more important – more play spaces of a lower quality or less play spaces of a higher quality?
- Should play spaces be co-located with other facilities such as shops?
- Is risk avoidance non-negotiable?
OUTCOME 2. FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS ON FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

The Forum will make recommendations on how the ACT Government should work with the community in making decisions about play spaces into the future. This outcome will influence engagements that follow the Forum decisions as well as engagements in the years to come. The recommendations will also be provided to stakeholders in other ACT Government Directorates and may help influence how the community works together with ACT Government in a number of ways.

TOPIC TO PONDER - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN DECISION MAKING

What about children and young people as decision makers?

Following are some policy drivers to consider when deciding whether children and young people should be part of the decision making on play spaces into the future.

Creating a child friendly city

One of the four United Nations guiding principles for a child friendly city is to have:

*Respect for the views of the child - Children have the right to voice their opinions and have these be taken into account in decisions that affect them.*

The ACT Children and Young People’s Commitment 2015-2025

Includes six priority areas, one of which is to:

*Include children and young people in decision making, especially in areas that affect them, ensuring they are informed and have a voice.*

The ACT Government Guide to Community Engagement

It will make your job easier if you consult with children and young people because:

- children and young people are active participants in our community today
- children and young people often have different views and experiences to those of adults
- involving children and young people in decision making is actually required under international and Territory law, and is supported by research evidence and ACT Government policy commitments
- consulting with children and young people will actually make your job easier in the long run.
SOME MORE CONSIDERATIONS:

The TCCS annual survey currently measures satisfaction with the provision and maintenance of play spaces. Is this enough? What other questions should we be asking?

How should children and young people be involved in decision making?

Should engagement at the local level be different to ACT wide engagement?

How does the community feel about citizens’ forums?

How does the community feel about participatory budgeting?

What about the voices of disadvantaged community members who are less likely to participate?

What does the community think about shared responsibility for action?

How can the Government get a broad understanding of how the community feels, rather than just listening to those who most easily find ways to be involved?

Are community members from a variety of cultural backgrounds a part of the decision making?

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OUTCOME 3. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

The Forum can decide to spend up to $1.9m with at least $1m on play spaces, as publicly announced by the Minister. If new play spaces are desired and proposed by the Forum, forum participants will be asked to identify similar valued assets to remove from the asset base.

Below is the option of four proposed categories to be presented by TCCS, based on current needs and the benefit of each category for the community and for the effective management of the play space asset base. At the Forum, TCCS will also present suggested funding amounts for each category. You may or may not want to accept them.

Amongst other things, the Forum can then decide:

- Whether this option is valid to suit future needs for play space provision and amend it if not.
- The amount of funding allocated to each category

This section provides more detail about the proposed category options, that will be presented by TCCS.

CATEGORY 1: District play spaces for new, nature-play playgrounds

The Forum Members can determine a funding allocation split to district play spaces to receive natural playgrounds to provide additional play experiences. This outcome will result in delivered and built natural playgrounds within the 2018-19 financial year.

*Indicative budgeting cost is $175,000 each (based on past projects).*

The location of the play spaces to receive this upgrade and the specific design of these play spaces will be determined through a separate community engagement process after the Forum, led by a community panel established through agreement from the Forum Members. Forum recommendations on how the ACT Government should work with the community in decision making (Outcome 2) will influence the nature of these processes.

There are 14 District play spaces in Canberra. Two have already received natural lay space additions. The other 12 are:

1. Lake Ginninderra, John Knight Memorial Park
2. Lake Ginninderra, Western Foreshore Park, Macdermott Place
3. Lake Ginninderra, Diddams Close
4. Umbabong Park, Latham
5. Yerrabi Pond Park, Gungahlin
6. Black Mountain Peninsula
7. Weston Park, Yarralulma
8. Kambah Adventure Playground
9. Gordon Adventure Playground
10. Fadden Pines
11. Eddison Park, Woden
12. Glebe Park, Civic

Other “destination” play spaces such as the Pod Playground at the Arboretum, Commonwealth Park and Boundless Playground are not in scope for this activity.
At the Forum detailed information will be provided about the condition and the catchment of these District play spaces to guide decision making.

**OUTCOME 3. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING**

**CATEGORY 2: Local suburbs for design / feasibility**

The Forum Members can determine a funding allocation to deliver a number of whole-or-suburb plans to improve the overall play opportunities in those suburbs.

*Indicative budgeting cost is $75,000 per suburb.*

The location of the suburbs to receive this work will be determined through a separate community engagement process after the Forum, led by a community panel established through agreement from the Forum Members. A shortlist of priority suburbs with overall poor condition playgrounds and poor diversity of play will be provided to the community panel. This outcome will result in preliminary designs developed through local engagement for the chosen suburbs. Current and potential play opportunities will be reviewed and the preliminary plans will be submitted for budget consideration for the 2019-20 financial year.

This proposal means not looking at single play spaces but whole suburbs. At the Forum you will be provided with information about the supply of play spaces within sample suburbs and demographic factors that may help your decision making processes.

Local suburbs could have informal activity spaces as well as traditional ‘playground’ equipment.

Local play spaces are considered in the context of a whole suburb and the range of play and ages catered for in that suburb.

**WHAT IS THE AVERAGE REPLACEMENT COST OF A PLAYGROUND?**

Local: $120,000
Central: $200,000

What criteria that the Forum identified in Outcome 1 will help make the selection of suburbs?
OUTCOME 3. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

CATEGORY 3: Amenity upgrades in play spaces

The Forum can determine a funding allocation split to be distributed through a community-led submission process for amenity upgrades to existing play spaces. Representatives from the Forum will work with the Better Suburbs team to facilitate a process to allocate funding to minor amenity upgrades including: shade, seating, landscaping, furniture and paths.

An indicative price list of sample amenity upgrades will be provided on the day of the Forum to guide the decision on how much funding to allocate to this category.

The Forum may nominate members of a panel to assess applications and also agree to involve additional community members (such as children or young people) to join the panel.

The agreed panel will invite requests from the community for amenity upgrades, with a review process to be conducted from September to December 2018. Decisions will be made by December 2019 with works to be implemented by 30 June 2019.

This outcome will result in the environment of existing play spaces becoming more accessible or comfortable for children and adults.

Amenity upgrades could be applied to Local, Central and District play spaces in both older suburbs and new suburbs.

The selected amenity upgrades will be installed at the play spaces by TCCS before 30 June 2018.
OUTCOME 3. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

CATEGORY 4: Amenity upgrades in play spaces

The Forum can determine a funding allocation split to existing play space for refresh, to extend their service life and improve their aesthetics. These play spaces are structurally sound but tired. The refresh can add another five years of performance before more repair is needed. Once the funding amount has been determined, TCCS will select the playgrounds based on condition reports.

_Indicative cost is $30,000 per play space._

This work will commence in August 2018 for completion by 30 June 2019.

Here are some examples of the refresh work that has already been completed on some local play spaces.

RUTHERFORD STREET, AINSIE – BEFORE AND AFTER REFRESH WORK

WERE STREET, CALWELL – BEFORE AND AFTER REFRESH WORK
POLICIES THAT RELATE TO PLAY SPACES IN CANBERRA

There are a number of ACT Government strategic documents relevant for play spaces decisions, as well as legislative requirements and servicing standards to comply with.

STATUTORY DOCUMENT
The Territory Plan is a statutory document developed under the Planning and Development Act 2007. It determines where particular land uses can occur and influences the provision of public infrastructure managed by Transport Canberra and City Services. This includes landscaping in public areas, provision of parks, paths, roads and stormwater infrastructure. Development applications are assessed against the Territory Plan.

OTHER STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS
The Canberra Plan: Towards Our Second Century defines the Government’s vision for progress. Two of the seven long term Government priorities are relevant to the Better Suburbs Statement: a vibrant city with great neighbourhoods, and high quality services.

The ACT Planning Strategy informs the future development of Canberra. It provides guidance to spatial planning, development and management for Canberra.

The City Plan sets a vision for development in the city centre. It addresses development and growth, and the efficient and effective delivery of projects and infrastructure. It aims to unlock the potential of Canberra’s CBD and integrate it with public transport, residential buildings, surrounding parklands and educational institutions.

The Statement of Planning Intent sets out the planning priorities for the ACT Government until 2020. It focuses on liveability, sustainability and place making to achieve quality public spaces and streets.

The Canberra Infrastructure Plan 2011-2021 aims to improve the process for prioritising infrastructure to optimize community benefit from a changing asset base.

ACT Children and Young People’s Commitment 2015-2025 provides guidance on how we can best support children and young people to reach their potential and protect their rights. One action is to promote safe inclusive community environments that allow children and young people to play, explore, grow and have experiences that promote positive development.

ACT Active Ageing Framework 2015-18 requires ACT Government directorates to incorporate active ageing principles into mainstream policies such as health, transport, employment, housing and social inclusion.

Canberra’s Living Infrastructure Information Paper 2018. Living infrastructure will play a key role as the city adjusts to the impact of climate change.

LINKS TO RESEARCH AND CONSULTATIONS

- **Media release** from the Minister for Transport and City Services, announcing the Play Spaces Forum:

- **Play Australia** has a number of useful links and resources. [https://www.playaustralia.org.au/](https://www.playaustralia.org.au/)


- **International Play Association**, inspirational video on the importance of play for children. [http://ipaworld.org/ipa-video-this-is-me-the-childs-right-to-play/](http://ipaworld.org/ipa-video-this-is-me-the-childs-right-to-play/)

- **Videos by Adam Bienenstock** about natural play spaces:
  - Why Natural Playgrounds: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaJ0Ksoopow](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaJ0Ksoopow)
  - Play like you remember: [https://youtu.be/hdsDyWi9vMA](https://youtu.be/hdsDyWi9vMA)


- **What makes a good play area for children?**

- **PLAY: Canberra Destinations Playgrounds Strategy.** As this is not yet available on the internet it will be provided separately to forum members.

- **Play Space Guide for Western Australian Schools.**


- **NSW Resource on play space safety:** [http://www.kidsafensw.org/playground-safety/](http://www.kidsafensw.org/playground-safety/)

- **Waverley Council Play Space Strategy 2014-2019.**

- **The State of Play: City of Campbelltown.**
ENDNOTES


v UNICEF. Child Friendly Cities Initiative. https://childfriendlycities.org/
