

## 2.1 DRAFT PLAY SPACE STRATEGY

(All Wards) (Community Facilities Planning)

### KEY ISSUES

- The City of Swan has approximately 150 play spaces, with an estimated asset value of \$6.4 million.
- The City's existing playgrounds do not maximise the opportunities for childhood development and the same play experiences tend to be duplicated at each site.
- Draft Play Space Guidelines and Draft Design Concept documents were developed and released to external stakeholders for comment on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2006, as per the Council resolution of 5<sup>th</sup> July.
- A Play Space Strategy has been developed to guide the efficient use of resources whilst providing quality play environments for toddlers though to teenagers.

It is recommended that the Council adopt the Draft Play Space Strategy.

### BACKGROUND

In 2004 a safety audit was conducted on all playground equipment within the City. This audit highlighted the substantial investment the City has in playground assets.

The City of Swan has approximately 150 playgrounds, with an estimated asset value of \$6.4 million. As urban development occurs, additional playgrounds will be constructed to meet the needs of new communities.

It is through play that children attain valuable life-skills, therefore one of the key cornerstones of childhood development is the opportunity for individuals to experience a diverse range of play opportunities. Playgrounds located within public open space and reserves are vital in providing opportunities for play and it is important that serious consideration is given to develop these spaces into supportive learning environments.

This will, in many cases result in new play facilities being quite different from traditional playgrounds. Therefore the term 'play spaces' will be utilised as it recognises that the entire site offers play opportunities, with landscaping and supporting amenity adding to the experience of the user.

In order to achieve quality, appropriately located play spaces in the City of Swan, Draft Play Space Guidelines and Draft Design Concept documents were developed. As play spaces in new urban developments are largely the responsibility of developers, it was necessary to obtain their feedback on these documents. At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 5 July 2006, Council resolved to:

- 1) *Approve the release of the Draft Play Space Design Guidelines to external stakeholders for comment*
- 2) *Approve the release of the Draft Play Space Design Concepts to external stakeholders for comment*

## **REPORT**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> July the Draft Play Space Design Guidelines and Design Concepts documents were released to external stakeholders for comment. These stakeholders consisted of the key property developers, landscape architects and designers with whom the City has regular dealings. Only two comments were received and both were positive support for the documents.

The draft Design and Guidelines documents have been incorporated into the Draft Play Space Strategy document. This strategic approach will provide direction for the responsible management of play space assets and ensure they best meet the needs of the community.

The strategy has been developed in close partnership with both internal and external stakeholders.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

(The Draft Play Space Strategy has been circulated to Councillors under separate cover and is available upon request to the City)

## **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

2.1 Develop self-contained, sustainable communities with access to suitably located facilities that support business, industry and community

2.2 Ensure competitive, cost effective and environmentally sustainable infrastructure and facilities that support business, industry and community

3.1 Enhance the individual's capacity to retain their independence and lead fulfilling lives within their community

3.2 Increase the levels of social and cultural interaction and inclusion to develop a collective sense of belonging within the community

## **STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT**

Nil

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council resolve to:

- 1) Adopt the Draft Play Space Strategy.

**MOTION** that the Council resolve to:

- 1) Adopt the Strategy to include the amendments referred to above.

(Cr Congerton - Cr Fardig)

## **AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION**

That the motion be amended to include the following:

That the use, at the discretion of Council, of soft foam material be included in the Draft Play Space Strategy.

(Cr McNamara - Cr Jones)

## **THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT TO THE VOTE AND LOST 4/9**

Cr McNamara requested that votes of members be recorded:

For: Councillors McNamara, Jones, Zannino and Alban

Against: Mayor Cr Gregorini, Councillors Congerton, Lucas, Wainwright, Fardig, Bailey, Croy, Zannino and Marino

## **RESOLVED (12/1) TO:**

- 1) Adopt the Strategy to include the amendments referred to above.