

Playspace Strategy Public Exhibition Engagement Summary



The draft Playspace Strategy sets out Council's long-term vision for how playspaces are planned, designed and upgraded across the Central Coast. It aims to guide future investment decisions so playspaces are well-designed, accessible, inclusive and fairly distributed, while responding to changing community needs.

Between 1 April and 29 April 2026, feedback on the draft Strategy was welcomed to understand if the draft Strategy reflects community priorities and experiences, and to identify where improvements or clarification are needed before the Strategy is finalised.

Feedback was sought to understand if the Strategy reflects earlier engagement, test support for the guiding principles and ensure the Strategy provides a clear and transparent framework for future decision-making.

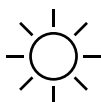
The community were invited to share their feedback by:

- Completing the online submission form
- Writing to Council by email or post

Engagement Results



Strong overall agreement with strategy guiding principles, with some refinement needed around principles such as equity in distribution and environmental, social and financial sustainability



Feedback highlighted the importance of **toilets, shade, fencing** and **parking** at playspaces to enable longer, safer and more inclusive play.



Feedback reinforced the importance of **equity in facility and amenity distribution** as a core strategic priority, with a clear expectation that playspace planning and investment will support fair access across the region.

How you connected



A total of **41** online submissions and **2** written submissions



Your Voice Our Coast
1,503 views



The strategy/plan/document was downloaded **62** times



Facebook – **13,412** people were reached, generating **46** interactions



Instagram – **1,657** people were reached, generating **35** interactions



Meta paid - Reach of
17,969



Targeted stakeholder email
- Delivered to **2,216**



eNews - Delivered to **5,597**



Coast Connect print –
Readership of **60,000+**

Who we heard from

Of the 41 online submission from respondents, a majority were **residents** who live on the Central Coast (90%, n=37). A smaller proportion indicated they work in the area (7%, n=3) or have an interest in the future of the region (7%, n=3) (Figure 1). Geographically, respondents came from 25 different suburbs across the Central Coast, with the strongest representation from **Gwandalan** (18%, n=7), followed by **Terrigal** (8%, n=3). Several suburbs including Bateau Bay, Lisarow, Narara, Umina Beach, Watanobbi, and Wyoming each contributed to 5% (n=2) of responses.

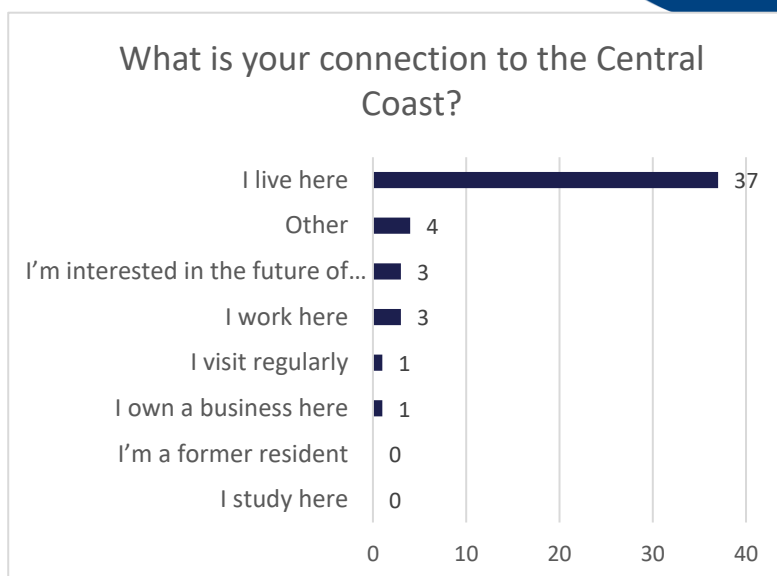


Figure 1: Respondent's connection to the Central Coast, Online survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 1 April to 29 April, 41 responses.

What we heard

Incorporation of earlier feedback

Respondents were asked whether the draft Playspace Strategy reflects what they shared during earlier engagement. The largest group of respondents indicated that the **strategy mostly reflects their feedback** (39%, n=16). However, more than a quarter of respondents either felt the strategy only somewhat reflects their feedback (17%, n=7) or does not reflect it at all (10%, n=4). Notably, a significant number of respondents had not participated in earlier engagement (29%, n=12), representing new voices in the conversation (Figure 2).

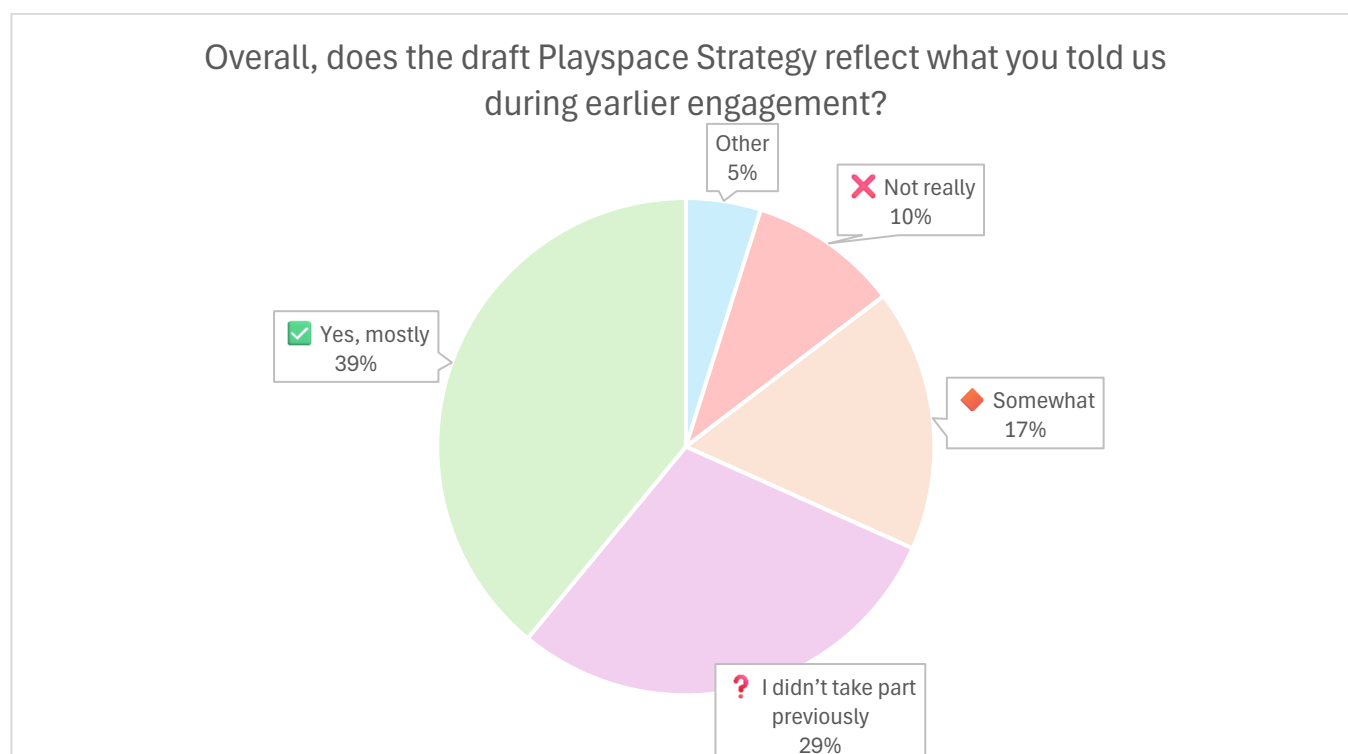


Figure 2: Incorporation of earlier feedback, Online survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 1 April to 29 April, 41 responses.

Guiding principles

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with six guiding principles underpinning the draft Playspace Strategy. All six guiding principles received majority support. **The most strongly supported principle was diversity and challenge** (82% agreement, n=32), followed by well-planned design (77% agreement, n=28) and co-location with community facilities (77% agreement, n= 26). Accessibility and inclusion received 72% support (n=30) (Figure 3).

However, two principles highlighted **areas of relative concern**. While most respondents still agreed with **equitable distribution across the region** (68%), this principle recorded the highest level of **disagreement** (20%, n=8) compared to all other principles, indicating stronger mix of views. **Environmental, social and financial sustainability** also attracted majority agreement (67%, n=28) but the highest proportion of **neutral or unsure** responses (26%, n=10), suggesting uncertainty rather than opposition.

Overall, the results indicate broad support for the strategy's guiding principles, alongside a need for Council to address perceptions of regional equity and more clearly articulate what sustainability will mean in practice (Figure 3).

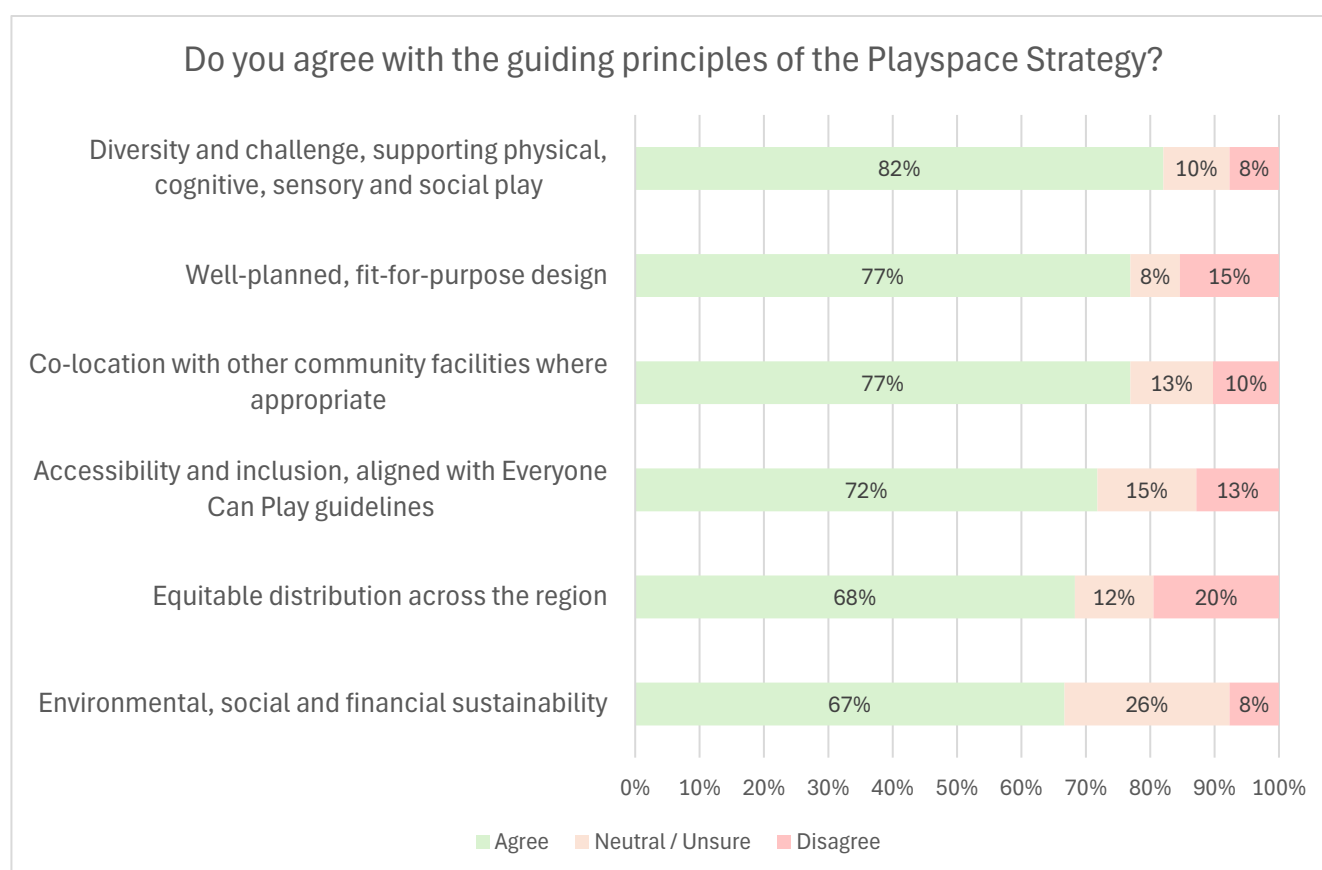


Figure 3: Agreement with guiding principles, Online survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 1 April to 29 April, 41 responses.

Key themes



Toilets at playspaces

Toilet access emerged as the most prominent concern, with 12 mentions. There was strong feedback, particularly from Crangan Bay Park users and the broader Northern Lakes community. Respondents emphasised the need for toilet facilities at district level playspaces, particularly for parents with young children, elderly visitors, and people with disabilities who may otherwise need to walk significant distances to reach toilet facilities.

"Absurd there will be no toilets for a park where you are encouraged to spend 1-3 hours. Don't make us the forgotten north. There are no nearby toilets a 1.2km round trip is not feasible with small children or for youths who may have ridden on a bike etc."

"The Gwandalan Lions Park toilets are 650 metres away - return trip over 1 kilometre. The Crangan Bay Park is up to 1 kilometre away from houses at the extreme edge of the Crangan Bay development. That's up to 2 kilometres round trip for mothers and toddlers to visit the park. How many mothers and toddlers will be using this park? And get real. Toddlers and the elderly cannot walk 650 metres to get to a toilet in time before there is an accident. So there is going to be a lot of filth and smell around this park. That should sit well with Council's Health and Safety standards - I don't think! Absolutely disgraceful. I can only assume this is designed by idealistic individuals who have no understanding these vulnerable groups of people."



Supporting amenities

Respondents emphasised the importance of supporting amenities that make playspaces safe and usable for families. **Shade** (7 mentions) was noted as vital for sun protection, including at local playspaces. **Fencing** (4 mentions) was described as essential to ensure safety and support parents managing multiple young children. **Parking** (3 mentions) and **BBQ facilities** (3 mentions) were also requested to make playspaces more accessible and family-friendly destinations.

"Fence and shade is not a clear priority. The people who spend most time at parks are parents with multiple children usually ranging from 0 to 6. This family dynamic requires shade and most importantly fencing. I can see that shade and fencing has been considered but the wording of this draft still lends towards the old strategy. Which is using trees for shade and only fencing when extremely dangerous conditions are close by. Parents NEED parks with shade covers and fences.... Building less parks but investing more money into these types of extras will make the community much happier than if you build lots of smaller local parks..."



"Add parking into it. For example, Archibold Park at Forresters Beach- we have to park in front of residential property and cross a road where cars generally speed to access it. Parking should always be on the same side as the park."

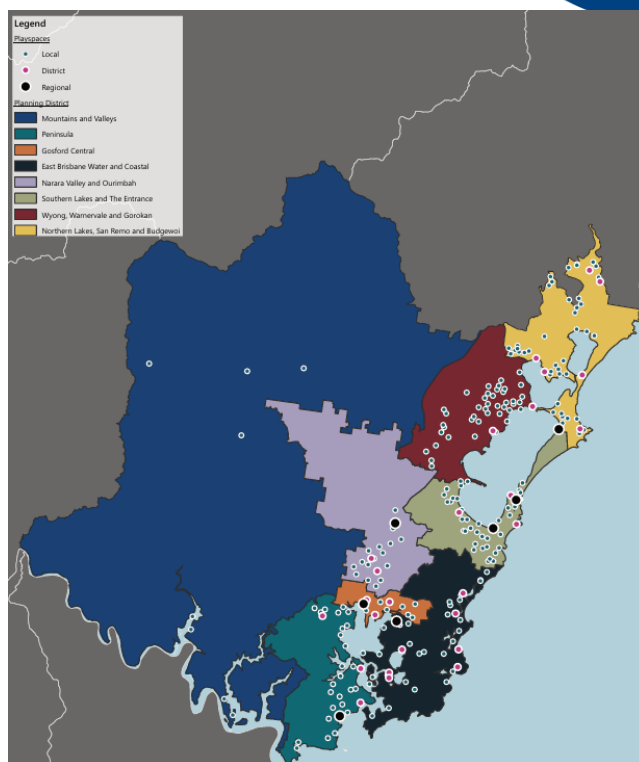


Equitable distribution across the region

Despite being a guiding principle of the draft Strategy, concerns were raised about inequity in playspace distribution, with 5 mentions. Some respondents highlighted that Northern Lakes and Wyong regions have significantly fewer regional playspaces compared to Brisbane Water, Coastal and tourist areas.

"Equity in regional and district parks; noting Northern Lakes and Wyong regions have no regional play spaces (one noted at Canton Beach which isn't representative of the sheer scope of the area covered in these regions. Yet, Brisbane Water & Coastal region has 7!"

"Hopefully the parks will be spread out fairly across all of the Central Coast and not just aiming for the tourist areas of Gosford and The Entrance"



Diversity of play for all ages

Respondents reiterated the need for a diversity of equipment for all ages, particularly for older kids and young adults (5 mentions). Some respondents noted that current playspaces tend to focus heavily on preschool-aged children.

"Overall, it's great, but I'd strengthen the need for play equipment for older kids (8-12). There is an abundance of parks suitable for preschoolers, but older kids still love playgrounds, and it's always harder to find a suitable one."



"These spaces should cater for all ages including adults in the form of exercise equipment like a lot of other places do. Our Forrester's beach playground is having an upgrade, and it appears the new equipment is designed only for very young children which is very disappointing given the rates we pay"

Council's response

Due to the volume and variety of content contained within community feedback, not every issue or theme can be included and responded to in the following table, however all feedback has been read and will be considered by the project team.

Theme	Theme summary	Council's response
Toilets at playspaces	Need for accessible toilets at playspaces to support longer visits and increased users	Council has adopted the Central Coast Public Toilet Strategy which is the driving document to inform the planning, renewal and upgrade of public toilets across the Central Coast including in park settings. Council will reference the Public Toilet Strategy, the Disability Inclusion Action Plan, and Playspace and Park Hierarchy contained in the strategy, to determine where new provision is required with the upgrade of district and regional level playspaces.
	6 submissions were made regarding the need for a toilet facility at the district level playspace at Crangan Bay	It should be noted the classification and distribution mapping for the playspace at Crangan Bay was incorrect in the draft Playspace Strategy. This playspace was identified as a district yet the playspace will service the immediate catchment of the Crangan Bay development, hence it is a local level playspace. Given the classification, Council has no immediate plans to develop a public toilet at the location. Within the Gwandalan catchment, public amenities are provided at Lioness Park (Gwandalan) and Tunkuwallin Oval.
Supporting amenities	Importance of shade, fencing, parking and amenities to improve safety and usability	Council understands the importance of delivering quality playspaces including supporting amenities. With the upgrade of future playspaces Council will reference the Playspace and Park Infrastructure Hierarchy to determine the level amenity and supporting facilities provided including shade, fencing, public safety and car parking.
Equitable distribution across the region	Concerns about uneven provision of district and regional playspaces across the region	The playspace distribution mapping contained within the strategy will assist with holistic network planning the identification of gaps in provision and/or over supply of playspace across the social planning districts.

Diversity of play for all ages	Call for broader play opportunities catering to older children, young people and adults	A key guiding principle for the strategy is the provision of diversity and challenge across the playspace network. Council acknowledges the need for playspace that cater for older children and young children with this noted for future upgrades, particularly regional level playspaces as they cater for the broadest range of ages and abilities.
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What's next?

Council will now consider the feedback received during exhibition and amend the Playspace Strategy where appropriate. The Strategy will then be presented to Councillors for formal adoption. This is anticipated to occur in June 2026. As this project progresses, any relevant updates will be available on Your Voice Our Coast.

Find out more and stay up to date at
yourvoiceourcoast.com/reviewing-our-playspace-vision
May 2026

Appendix A – Verbatim comments

This appendix contains verbatim comments provided during consultation through the online survey. It is included to ensure full transparency of community feedback. All comments have been de-identified to protect respondent privacy.

What feels missing or incorrect?	If you could change or strengthen one thing in the draft Playspace Strategy, what would it be?	Do you have any other comments or ideas you'd like to share about the Playspace Strategy?
Fence and shade is not a clear priority.	The people who spend most time at parks are parents with multiple children usually ranging from 0 to 6. This family dynamic requires shade and most importantly fencing. I can see that shade and fencing has been considered but the wording of this draft still lends towards the old strategy. Which is using trees for shade and only fencing when extremely dangerous conditions are close by. Parents NEED parks with shade covers and fences. These parks attract the most families and allow parents to leave the house with multiple children safely. If these two elements are not included in the majority instead of minority of parks the equipment will be a lot less popular with the community and sit unused by many families. Building less parks but investing more money into these types of extras will make the community much happier than if you build lots of smaller local parks. Parents all drive to the parks now anyway and the kids can sleep in the car a 20 min drive is nothing to a parent if the park is well designed and fenced in. Built them big and built them well.	Thank you for you time and effort. It is very appreciated.
	These spaces should cater for all ages including adults in the form of exercise equipment like a lot of other places do	Our Forresters beach playground is having an upgrade and it appears the new equipment is designed only for very young children which is very disappointing given the rates we pay
		As a grandma, I would like to emphasise 2 things, which most playspaces I have visited do have: structures where the children can climb and challenge themselves, within safe parameters, and plenty of opportunity to swing. There always seems to be a child or two waiting for a turn to swing. It is a soothing and calming action, I have witnessed the benefit of swinging on children

		with ADHD. The small playspace at the Alan Davidson oval in Wyoming is a good example
		It would be great to have water play incorporated. Many Sydney parks have water parks embedded, and although we have access to beaches etc on the Coast, on warm days, parks with water would still do well.
	Strong fences spoke to a council worker who told me half the time fences and gates are not installed due to be broken- the fences at our local parks are made with pool fences ' if we used fences similar to the ones around schools / more sturdy and durable they shouldn't break as easily	So many parks seems to be a cut and paste of each other - I'd really love to see cc council go and view playgrounds in other areas! Newcastle, lake Mac, Sydney, Wollongong, Illawarra even QLD or VIC there are some phenomenal playgrounds around and honestly I think for the money cc spends on their playgrounds- they don't compare
	All local parks should have access to drinking water. Our climate is changing to have longer, hotter summer weather and we should have access to water at all times. There is water available to households nearby so the infrastructure is there. Children don't always have water with them and especially the ones on bikes, are too far from home to just top up with some fresh water. Clear brains require children to be hydrated and not to be unsafe on the roads because they are not thinking clearly or processing the dangers around them.	Hopefully the parks will be spread out fairly across all of the Central Coast and not just aiming for the tourist areas of Gosford and The Entrance
	Shade in local play spaces	
	Overall it's great, but I'd strengthen the need for play equipment for older kids (8-12). There are an abundance of parks suitable for preschoolers, but older kids still love playgrounds, and it's always harder to find a suitable one.	
	Add a stronger emphasis on Connecting with Country. Play spaces are important cultural places and it is a great opportunity to explore ways to engage with Country - through community engagement, learning, materials, planting, siting and design. Play spaces also have an educational/pedagogical opportunity to create space where children can learn about Country.	I also think there should be a stronger emphasis on use of natural materials - eg. Shade via trees rather than shade cloths, and have explorative nature play (water play, sandstone climbing blocks etc) and native plantings, rather than play equipment made from solely plastics and metals. This is important for children learning about the environment,

		environmental sustainability, reducing heat in playgrounds and promoting biodiversity. I think environmental sustainability could be a separate priority as it is so important.
	I would stress the importance of safety in terms of shade from sun and fences. I often hear that mums only go with their toddlers to playgrounds that are fenced or that are shaded enough. Similarly, grassed areas that are maintained frequently are scarce in playgrounds, meaning often the grass has rubbish, glass or unsafe objects in it. Mums and dads want to give their children the health benefits of bare foot play but have to consider these risks. Risks such as not enough shade, unsafe grassed areas and of children wandering outside unfenced playgrounds are not risks that are beneficial for our youngest children to take. As the children frequenting these play spaces the most are younger, understanding what makes a space accessible for them should be prioritised	
	Keeping health of users as priority meaning using a proper materials to built the play space rather than keeping social and financial sustainability! Health and safety should be at forefront of the development over the financial sustainability.	How are stakeholders involved in the decision making going to ensure the strategy is successful and realistic?
	It would be great to see a longer term plan that includes larger park developments. ie. increase budgets to allow this to happen. Would also love to see more public art integrated into playscapes - some great examples have been built by REDACTED, REDACTED and others. I work in this space and would love a chat with Council if there is an opportunity to share ideas. I didn't realise that there were so many parks on the central coast - you have a big job and a lot on your plate!!	The development of nature-based parks like Wild Play in Sydney's Centennial Park and Southbank in Brisbane on the northern end of the central coast. Also seating and places for teenagers and young adults to enjoy - ninja or parkour courses, skateparks, gardens like the Gosford Japanese garden and general BBQ / picnic areas. Your strategy looks great!
	We definitely need more shade cloths over play equipment please! Parks in Sydney are so amazing and I would love to bring that here! More play equipment where you're not worried if your child is going to fall off the open side or the gaps on the bridge are too wide.	No just the above and a lot more parks everywhere on the coast we are definitely lacking
	Exercise equipment in the San Remo area. Toilets near the district park at San Remo	It doesn't talk about new playgrounds

	Equity in regional and district parks; noting Northern Lakes and Wyong regions have no regional play spaces (one noted at Canton Beach which isn't representative of the sheer scope of the area covered in these regions. Yet, Brisbane Water & Coastal region has 7!	Good to see community feedback on prioritising local play spaces is reflected in the draft strategy.
Water based play - like Tuncurry water playground	Fencing - so so important for safety	
	The Crangan Park play space, let REDACTED do what they said they were going to do. Absurd there will be no toilets for a park where you are encouraged to spend 1-3 hours. Don't make us the forgotten north. There are no nearby toilets a 1.2km round trip is not feasible with small children or for youths who may have ridden on a bike etc	As above - let REDACTED do what they said they were going to do for Crangan Bay!
	Crangan bay must have bathrooms. 1.2km round trip walk is unreasonable to expect of parents with small children or grandparents.	Please reconsider the crangan bay bathroom situation.
		I'm glad to see that the parks in Wyong and Watanobbi have been included and I'm looking forward to them being updated to play spaces that reflect the large community of families in the area
Crangan Bay Park No Toilets. Very poor planning and foresight to public amenities. Unless you live less than 500m it will almost be impossible for most downsizers to visit. Most older people have bladder issues as they age. And even a parent has to change an emergency nappy. In public it seems. It is obvious the person who made this decision does not have privy to a menstrual cycle emergency and some people have very heavy start up and need a toilet urgently. Older men/ all men are lucky they can stand and face a tree. This is going to be a blot on the parks clean aspect. Perhaps it is not too late to reconsider amenities. I know they also have a downside with upkeep and		

mess but it's still necessary for those that live further from the park. Stage 3 and stage 6 are quite a hike.		
	Incorporate plantings to beautify the space. Trees will provide shade for the younger plants. Trees and plants must be maintained in good health for the long term. We have seen many fail in the recent Peninsula Precinct Park due to lack of watering. Watering systems should be installed where possible. The sprinklers at Peninsula Precinct Park only water the grassed area. Weeding is essential. Contractors do the best job as they are trained horticulturists.	Educational signage about the history or the story behind how a park came about is one idea. For example Runway Park Woy Woy. Label significant trees.
In 2018 we started our campaign to have a toilet block constructed at The Lions Park and Jimmy Jurd Pirate Park at Chittaway Bay. Originally The Lions Park was a very basic park and was correctly in the category of Local Playspace. However with the passing of young Jimmy Jurd money that had been raised for his treatment overseas was put into the construction of the Jimmy Jurd Pirate Park. This was a game changer but Council still has not reclassified the park from Local Playspace to District Playspace. This Park has everything to make it a District Playspace although Council have stated that a toilet block will be constructed in the next four years. This will make it 10 years in the making. Council has decided that if a toilet block is built at The Lions Park the toilet block at Bluebell Park which is 1k west of our Park will be demolished. This is completely opposite to what I was told last year. I was told that a block would be built at The Lions	I would streamline the system to stop everything from taking so long to have a decision made. Here we are with the Draft Playspace Strategy and now all of the comments will be processed and then a few more meetings before it goes to Council. One question do the Playspace Strategy staff meet with the Public Toilet Strategy staff? I tend to think not because they appear to have different thoughts of what should happen.	Please refer to the answers to the first question.

Park and the Bluebell Park block would be renovated.		
	Need toilets and parking for parents, grandparents, and the physically compromised. Otherwise everything in the draft paper is just rhetoric. It's crapp!	The Gwandalan Lions Park toilets are 650 metres away - return trip over 1 kilometre. The Crangan Bay Park is up to 1 kilometre away from houses at the extreme edge of the Crangan Bay development. That's up to 2 kilometres round trip for mothers and toddlers to visit the park. How many mothers and toddlers will be using this park? And get real. Toddlers and the elderly cannot walk 650 metres to get to a toilet in time before there is an accident. So there is going to be a lot of filth and smell around this park. That should sit well with Council's Health and Safety standards - I don't think! Absolutely disgraceful. I can only assume this is designed by idealistic individuals who have no understanding these vulnerable groups of people. They can't even drive to this park to exercise children as there is no parking. Parking is need for Parents, Grandparents and the disabled. As currently planned the Park is Non-inclusive.
	Toilet and BBQ should be in every park.	Toilets and BBQ should be in every park.
Toilets for parents and children to use.	BBQ's and Toilets and shaded areas for parents to sit while kids play.	No
Bbq area Also it should have a toilet and water bubbler, dog poo bags	Toilet Bbq Water bubbler Basket Ball ring - brings older kids together	Only as above, these extra items would bring more people together. I believe being regional more items are needed to help bring more young people out
	Toilet facilities at the crangan bay park. This park is half a kilometre from the lions park which has toilets.	
	Add parking into it. For example Archibold Park at Forresters Beach- we have to park in front of residential property and cross a road where cars generally speed to access it. Parking should always be on the same side as the park.	Well done. Keep it up. We appreciate you!
	Nothing - please just be more mindful about what you include and the design in a play space. Consider the Lions Park at Berry or the	Forget the outdoor fitness opportunities unless you're proposing more basketball or

	Huntlee Playground for purpose built all age and activity spaces. We don't want a wasted repeat of Gosford Waterfront.	bike riding tracks. We don't need additional metal structures for a member of the community to do a couple of push ups. Spend the money elsewhere that's needed eg; public toilets. Car parking is also an issue at regional play spaces. Gosford Waterfront, Bill Soher just to name a couple.
	A promise that none of these parks will be sold. These spaces belong to the community and efforts have been made in the past to sell off reserves to obtain relief from Council debt.	Why is Winter Close Reserve not included in the Ourimbah, Narara Valley park list as a local facility?
The facilities at District Play sSpaces are provided on a Situational basis. In practice this means minimal facilities that have to be maintained rather than what the locality needs. For Example the developers wanted to provide toilets at the new Crangan Bay area but they were refused on the basis that parents of children at playgroups could walk 600m to a toilet at a boat ramp. This is obsolete and the disabled toilet requires a key. The community suffers for decades because of poor planning and council cost cutting.	When new suburbs are built the needs of the community are usually different to people living in surrounding communities and rules about the facilities provided based on straight line distance should be modified.	
Location of Terrigal park on duffys oval is great but still quite far to travel for the upper kings estate area (mobbs road and surrounds). A more local park would be preferable as there isn't a safe, continuous walkway to get from the upper end of Terrigal to duffys oval with a pram. Another playspace in the green space off Windermere drive or off of kings ave would be ideal.	Additional local Terrigal play space for upper estate where you cannot walk safely to existing or proposed spaces.	Very supportive of investing more in local facilities for residents rather than larger regional spaces that you need to travel to.
Toukley action and The Entrance water feature play area for children	Equitable distribution is illogical. Distribution should be focused on high traffic areas, such as community shopping areas such as Village Green, Toukley shops. Many young families	Employ trades people who can fix and repair equipment, The Entrance playground / water

	visit this area with little to no play available for them. The old play equipment is 30 years old, for remembrance of WW2 ending. The water feature has not worked for over 28 years.	feature is an example of very poor management.
	Have more play spaces within easy walking distance, more local small parks, even if it means buying back a house. Think of Erskineville, where they have play spaces and green spaces all over the place so you just need to walk a few minutes to your nearest play space. Let's not require people to drive to get there, do you know how much effort it is to get a toddler in a car, as opposed to walking?	