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# Play Space Strategy

# Randwick City Council

An assessment of existing playgrounds and future play spaces within Randwick City Council

01 August 2023

*Adopted by Council on 22 August 2023*

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## **Acknowledgment of Country**

Randwick City Council acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the First Australians of this land, and the Bidjigal and Gadigal people who traditionally occupied the land we now call Randwick City.

Randwick City has a rich and unique Aboriginal cultural history, with La Perouse being the only area in Sydney where the local Aboriginal community have had an unbroken connection to the land.

We recognise and celebrate the spiritual and cultural connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with the land which long pre-dates European settlement and continues today.

Building on our Statement of Recognition and commitment to Reconciliation, Council wishes to support the vision and plans of our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait community in order to close the gap on disadvantage, build stronger local and regional economies and support culturally rich and healthy communities.



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## Executive Summary

Since 2020, Randwick City Council has delivered significant studies and strategies for the proper management and future planning for our local open space resources including play spaces. These documents have informed the development of Randwick City Council Play Space Strategy 2023. Site inspections and assessments were undertaken for all playgrounds in the Randwick City Council local government area (LGA). Asset management data (including current condition) was assessed to provide direction for future upgrades.

This report utilises the findings and recommendations of the Open Space and Recreational Needs Study 2020 and Council's informing strategy: Open Space and Recreation Strategy. The Study and Strategy provide direction for future improvements and identify gaps in the provision of quality play spaces. The application of the "Everyone Can Play Guideline" from NSW State government was a key parameter in developing the Play Space Strategy.

The Play Space Strategy has also been enlightened by the community with extensive consultation undertaken as part of the development of the Open Space and Recreational Needs Study and the Open Space and Recreation Strategy. Further consultation was undertaken for development of this Play Space Strategy, specifically for the purpose of understanding the community's aspirations for future play spaces.

Ultimately, recommendations and priorities have been developed to improve our play spaces by recategorisation, upgrades, proposed additional amenity and potential new locations.

# Introduction

## 1.1. Definition: difference between a playground and a play space?

For this Strategy, the difference between a playground and a play space is defined as:

*'A playground is a term referring to public play equipment provided within a park or reserve. Play spaces are more than the play equipment – they include a 'whole park' experience and can offer spaces for multiple activities and play experiences within the park or reserve for a range of abilities – often with supporting infrastructure (for example, seating, pathways, drinking fountains etc.).'<sup>1</sup>*

Whilst the scope of this Strategy focuses primarily on public playgrounds, it is important to note that Council also provides a range of outdoor recreational facilities in public parks and reserves that do not generally constitute a traditional playground such as:

- Fitness or exercise stations and equipment
- Basketball courts, half and full courts for social play
- Community tennis facilities such as public tennis courts
- Skate parks
- The Heffron Pedal Park

It is best practice to consider the design of a playground as part of the broader park. In some cases, where recreational infrastructure such as a basketball court or exercise station is integrated into the play space (as opposed to stand-alone play equipment), it should be considered and integrated into the design intent of the play space. Future delivery of recreational areas (parks) for toddlers and youth should have the objective of providing a play space that is more of a complete experience for users.

## 1.2. Background

The need for this strategic document was identified in the Randwick City Open Space Recreational Needs Study 2020 and Council's informing strategy: Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2021. It will inform the design and delivery of Randwick's playground/play spaces.

The Play Space Strategy is a strategic document guiding the future of Randwick City Council's play spaces over the next 10-15 years up to 2038. This document provides a summary of our existing playgrounds and play spaces and outlines ways to improve their quality to benefit the community. This document will guide the process for upgrading existing playgrounds and proposes suitable locations for new play spaces within the Randwick local government area (LGA). It also makes some recommendations for the installation of play trails.

The Randwick City Council Play Space Strategy has been developed to ensure a planned, equitable and sustainable approach to the provision and management of play spaces in Randwick City. Play is important for children's physical, cognitive and social development. Through play spaces and play trails, important life skills are learnt using interaction, risk taking, imagination, socialising, and self-expression. Playing allows children to learn about themselves and others. Play spaces provide environments where children can explore, create, imagine, interact and reflect. Successful playgrounds enable children of all ages to take calculated risks, interact with others and be physically active. Playgrounds have evolved from a simple slide and swing sets to integrated equipment that incorporate a range of features, challenges, themes and experiences.

The Randwick City is a desirable area to live. As a result, more people are choosing to stay in smaller houses and units to raise a family. As urban density intensifies and private open space is reduced, the importance of public open space increases. This places pressure on open space realms to provide high quality experiences for a range of ages and interests. The continual improvement of quality passive and active open space, including playgrounds, will actively promote community participation in physical activity and improve wellbeing.

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<sup>1</sup> NSW Government 2020, Department of Planning and Environment, accessed 25 December 2023, <<http://www.everyonecanplay.nsw.gov.au>

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## 2. Strategic Objectives

### 2.1. Objectives

Randwick City Council is a signatory to the NSW Public Spaces Charter. The charter has been developed to support the planning, design, management and activation of public spaces in NSW. It identifies 10 principles for quality public space, developed through evidence-based research and discussions with public space experts and community members. In the planning and design of play spaces, Council will apply these principles.

The objective of the Play Space Strategy is to provide guidance for existing and future play spaces within the Randwick LGA including actions to meet the needs of the community up until 2038.

The core objectives of this report are to:

- Apply the principles of the NSW Public Spaces Charter in the delivery of play spaces.
- Address the needs identified in the Randwick Open Space and Recreational Needs Study 2020.
- Identify and categorise existing play spaces within Randwick City Council.
- Propose and categorise new play spaces within Randwick City Council.
- Implement DPE's 'Everyone Can Play' guidelines as a toolkit for upgrading existing and creating new play spaces with the focus on three central questions: Can I get there? Can I play? Can I Stay?
- Ensure that the design and upgrade of place spaces is achievable and sustainable within Randwick City Council resources.
- Set priorities for the upgrading of playgrounds into play spaces.
- Ensure new and upgraded playgrounds meet community expectations.

### 2.2. Who is the play space strategy for?

The Play Space Strategy should be used to prioritise and scope upgrade, replacement and delivery of new play spaces. It should also be a guiding document for use by Randwick City Council's strategic planning, open space planning and operational teams. It should be used by play space professionals such as developers, designers and planners if seeking to implement a play space in the Randwick City LGA.

This document will also inform the community of Randwick City Council's play space priorities up until 2038.

### 2.3. Who are we accounting for?

The Play Space Strategy accounts for all council-managed public play spaces within the Randwick City Council LGA. Our play spaces are used by a range of people, including toddlers, children, teenagers, young adults, families, and carers. This strategy aims to improve the quality of all play spaces to meet the needs of those who wish to participate in play.

### 2.4. Planning context

Randwick's playgrounds are located on land classified as "community land" and most of the locations are on land categorised as "Park" as defined by the Local Government Act 1993.

#### Open Space and Recreation Needs Study 2020

In 2020, the Open Space and Recreational Needs Study was completed for Randwick City Council (Council). This study provides the evidence-based data to help set the framework for the future planning of our open space and recreation network including the development of Council's Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

The Open Space and Recreational Needs Study found that *"across engagement activities including online surveys, an interactive online map, pop-up stalls, stakeholder interviews and online workshops, participants wanted to see play spaces in Randwick City be upgraded to*

*include more exciting and adventurous equipment suitable for a range of ages (including younger children and older children) and abilities.”*

The following was the expressed demand in the Open Space and Recreational Needs Study:

*“Overall, 79% of survey respondents said playgrounds and play spaces are important or very important, as well as play for babies and young children (74%).*

*43% of survey respondents were satisfied with the provision of play spaces, rating them as high or very high quality. Community engagement findings indicated an expressed need for: - Diversified and creative play spaces, particularly nature and adventure play, more inclusive play for all ages and abilities, particularly children and young people. Upgrades and maintenance of playground equipment, increased trees and shade cover, and increased amenity near play spaces including seating, toilets, and water stations.”*

The Open Space and Recreational Needs Study concluded that *“Maintenance of play equipment was a priority, as well as increased shaded seating areas, water bubblers and toilets to provide comfort and amenity. Participants indicated that some play spaces are at capacity and want to see these expanded.”*

From the Open Space and Recreational Needs Study, in relation to playgrounds and play spaces, the community told us there is a need to:

- Increase tree canopy and shade cover to provide cooling and amenity, including in parks, playgrounds, along the coast and active transport routes.
- Increase active transport links to support recreation, access and safety, including improved footpaths and cycle paths.
- Increase the amenity of existing open spaces, including upgrades and maintenance as well as provision of shade, seating, picnic tables, bubblers and toilets.
- Upgrade and provide more diverse play spaces for a range of ages and abilities.
- Continue to provide access to natural areas for connection to nature and preservation of biodiversity.
- Provide and plan for recreation with dogs, including desire for upgrades to existing dog spaces, more fenced spaces and beach access.
- Increase diversity and quantity of public outdoor recreation spaces, including outdoor gyms and outdoor courts.

### **NSW State Government: Everyone Can Play**

NSW State government have developed the “Everyone Can Play” which is a best practice toolkit for councils to use when creating world-class play spaces designed to include everyone in the community. The guideline provides guidance on the development of play spaces and establishes principles of ‘Can I get there? Can I play? Can I stay?’. The key is that it provides guidelines on ensuring the delivery on inclusive play.

The “Everyone Can Play” toolkit is to be used as an important component in upgrading and replacing play spaces in Randwick City.

## **2.5. Vision**

### **Our vision for play spaces**

Randwick City Council will provide a diverse range of quality, fun, accessible, well designed and maintained play spaces that assist with children’s and youth’s physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development as well as providing a community meeting point that encourages interaction, understanding, physical activity and community wellbeing.

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## 3. Existing Playgrounds

### 3.1. Overview of current playgrounds

Currently there are 59 playgrounds, 6 of which are classified as District within the Randwick City Council LGA. These facilities vary in quality, scale, targeted age groups, experiences offered and asset condition. Currently, playgrounds are upgraded with funding primarily from council's annual capital works program with some funding from NSW Government grants. This strategy will provide fair and transparent priorities for the upgrading of Randwick's playgrounds / play spaces.

This section of the report assesses the current characteristics of existing playground/play spaces. The purpose of the scoring is to provide information and guidance for making decisions about priorities for playground/play space upgrades.

### 3.2. Where are our playground located and how are they categorised?

The Open Space and Recreational Needs Study mapped the location and distribution of playgrounds across the City, the following are a summary of the results:

#### Most playgrounds/spaces are located in:

- Coogee
- Randwick
- Maroubra
- Matraville

#### Need for more playgrounds/spaces in:

- Kensington
- Kingsford
- La Perouse
- Little Bay
- Malabar
- Chifley
- South Coogee
- Phillip Bay
- Clovelly

As a rule of thumb, play spaces generally have a categorisation (see Table 1), which aligns with national approaches to open space. These categorisations are:

- **Pocket** - Usually pocket or small parks that include a small rest area or very small play for passers-by to stop and rest.
- **Local** - Serving residents within a suburb. Usually support shorter 30min - 60mins stays by catering for informal recreation, relaxation and children's play. Should be located within 400m walking distance.
- **Neighbourhood** - Smaller open spaces that serve residents within immediate locality and within in easy walking distance (400m or less) from home to provide for short stay activities, usually children's play.
- **District** - A large or significant open space that serves more than one suburb. Can cater for a wide cross section of community interests, including both informal recreation and sporting opportunities. Generally, provides a diverse range of facilities including toilets to encourage longer stays.
- **Regional** – A large or unique area with good links to public transport that attracts visitation from the whole of the Randwick City or wider, including tourists.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Randwick City Council, 'Randwick City Open Space and Recreation Needs Study' December 2020.

**Table 1 - Play space categorisation criteria**

Criteria	Category				
	Pocket	Local	Neighbourhood	District	Regional
Land character	Urban lot	Urban lot or Park	Park	Parkland	Parkland
Plan experience	2-4, play area less than 200m <sup>2</sup>	4-5 in urban lot, and play area more than 200m <sup>2</sup> , or 4-5 in park	6-10	10-15	16+
Capacities	10 people	25 people	45 people	65 people	150+
Catchment	200m	400m	800m	2000m	LGA
User age group	Toddler to preschool	preschool to primary school	all ages	all ages	all ages
Carpark / large street parking				x	x
Disable parking space			x	x	x
Public Transport			x	x	x
Picnic Table		x	x	x	x
Bubbler			x	x	x
Toilet blocks*			x	x	x
BBQ				x	x

\*NB: The provision of toilet blocks will be subject to specific business case assessments to ensure value for money and sustainability.

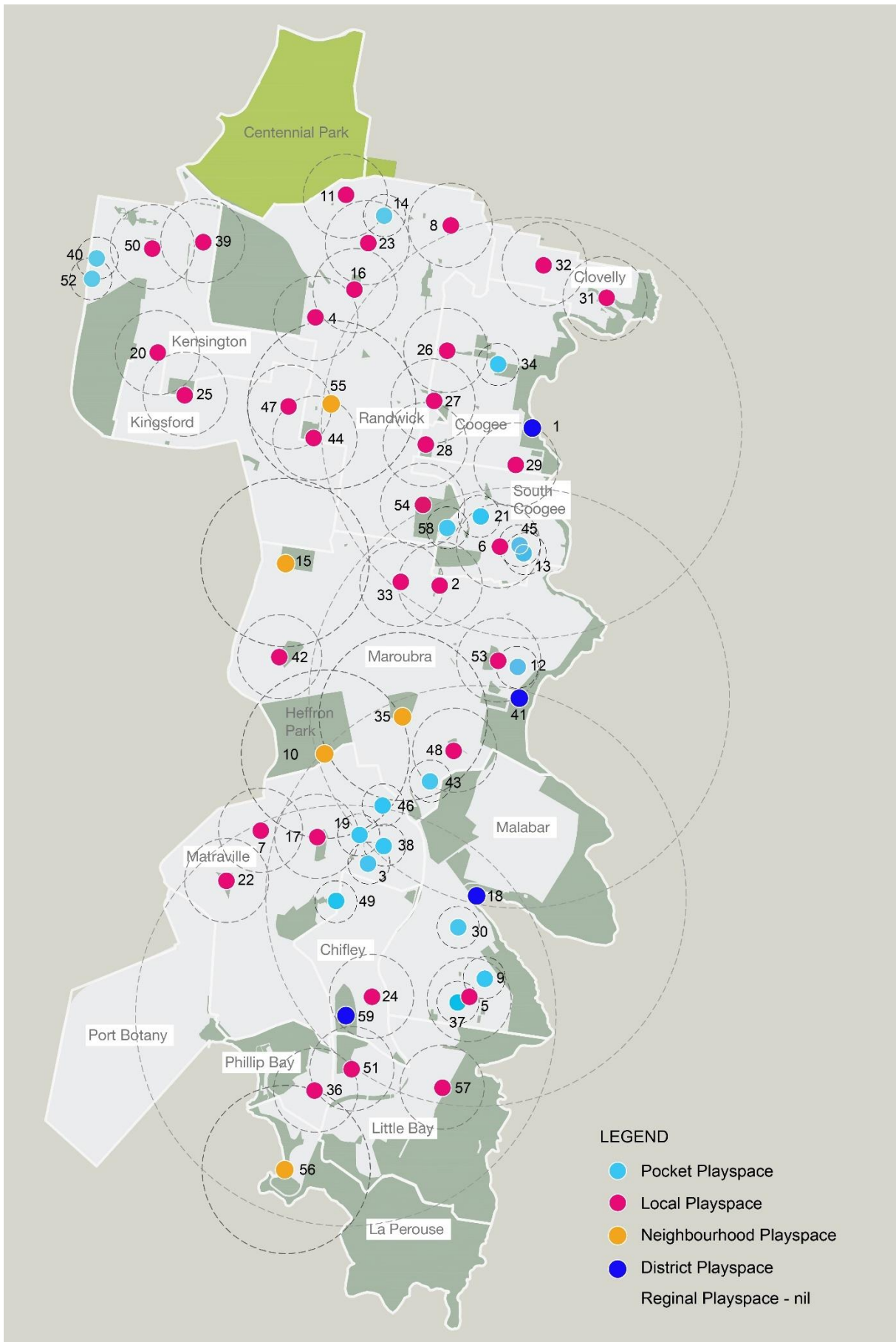
The following table show the categorisation for existing playgrounds based on the criteria in Table 1.

**Table 2 - Existing playground / play space categorisation**

Code	Playground Name	Suburb	Existing Play space Type
26	Alby Smith Memorial Park Playground	Coogee	Local
16	Alison Park Playground	Randwick	Local
58	Argyle Crescent Reserve	South Coogee	Pocket
7	Baird Reserve Playground	Matraville	Local
27	Baker Park Playground	Coogee	Local
28	Bangor Park Playground	Coogee	Local
17	Barwon Park Playground	Matraville	Local
8	Bieler Reserve Playground	Randwick	Local
3	Blaxland Reserve Playground	Matraville	Pocket

Code	Playground Name	Suburb	Existing Play space Type
29	Blenheim Park Playground	Coogee	Local
30	Boulevard Reserve Playground	Malabar	Pocket
31	Bundock Park Playground	Clovelly	Local
32	Burnie Park Playground	Clovelly	Local
59	Chifley Reserve Inclusive Playground	Chifley	District
57	Coast Hospital Memorial Park	Little Bay	Local
34	Coogee Oval Playground	Coogee	Pocket
35	Coral Sea Park Playground	Maroubra	Neighbourhood
18	Cromwell Park Playground	Malabar	District
24	Dr Walters Reserve Playground	Chifley	Local
5	Ella Reserve Playground	Malabar	Local
19	Finucane Reserve Playground	Matraville	Pocket
20	Fitzpatrick Park Playground	Kensington	Local
23	Frank Doyle Park Playground	Randwick	Local
36	Fred Williams Reserve Playground	Phillip Bay	Local
56	Frenchmans Beach Playground	La Perouse	Neighbourhood
37	Gabee Reserve Playground	Malabar	Pocket
6	Gollan Park Playground	South Coogee	Local
11	Govett Reserve Playground	Randwick	Local
1	Grant Reserve: Stan Windon Memorial Playground	Coogee	District
10	Heffron Park Playground	Maroubra	Neighbourhood
12	Hereward Reserve Playground	Maroubra	Pocket
38	Hurley Reserve Playground	Matraville	Pocket
55	Inglis Park Playground	Randwick	Neighbourhood
52	Ingram Street Reserve Playground	Kensington	Pocket
21	Jacaranda Playground	South Coogee	Pocket
25	John Calopedos Playground	Kensington	Local
39	Kokoda Park Playground	Kensington	Local
40	Les Bridges Playground	Kensington	Pocket
41	Maroubra Beach Playground	Maroubra	District
54	Munda Street Playground	Randwick	Local
53	Muraborah Reserve Playground	Maroubra	Local

Code	Playground Name	Suburb	Existing Play space Type
42	Nagle Park Playground	Maroubra	Local
43	Ocean View Reserve Playground	Maroubra	Pocket
44	Paine Reserve Playground	Randwick	Local
14	Peace Park Playground	Randwick	Pocket
13	Popplewell Park (lower) Playground	South Coogee	Pocket
45	Popplewell Park (upper) Playground	South Coogee	Pocket
22	Purcell Park Playground	Matraville	Local
2	Quarry Reserve Playground	Maroubra	Local
46	Rabaul Reserve Playground	Matraville	Pocket
9	Rubie Reserve Playground	Malabar	Pocket
47	Shaw Reserve Playground	Kingsford	Local
15	Snape Park Playground	Maroubra	Neighbourhood
48	South Maroubra Village Green Playground	Maroubra	Local
33	Walter Williamson Park Playground	Maroubra	Local
49	Wassell Street Playground	Matraville	Pocket
50	Wills Reserve Playground	Kensington	Local
51	Woomera Reserve Playground	Little Bay	Local
4	Writtle Park Playground	Randwick	Local



**Diagram 1 – Existing playground categories map**

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## 4. Assessing Existing Playgrounds

### 4.1. Process for Analysis of Playground Quality

All council managed playgrounds in the Randwick LGA were inspected and assessed by a qualified professional for the purpose of providing data and evidence to inform this strategy.

The information gathered at the inspections, council's asset data (including condition) and the "Everyone Can Play" principles were used as the criteria for analysing the current stock of playgrounds.

### 4.2. Assessing "Can I Get There?"

The following criteria were considered in the assessment of "Can I Get There?":

- access to public transport / proximity to bus stop or light rail stop
- links to public footpaths
- visibility from the street
- availability of street parking
- wayfinding signage

#### Overview

Our existing playgrounds / spaces were assessed for "Can I get there?" using the criteria above. The score was given out of 5 where the playground / space met all criteria. Since all play spaces have street parking nearby, the parking score focuses on best parking opportunities. If the play space is 100m to the bus stop or light rail stop, it is evaluated to have access to public transportation. It is important to have good linkages to the public footpath, preferably being a hard surface link. Also, play space have a better score if it can be viewed from the street or has clear signage that directs people to the play space.

#### Accessibility

For a playground to be "accessible" it must have a reasonable number of elements such as way finding signage, wheelchair ramps and accessible paths. Nearby car parking access relevant to the size and popularity of the playground is a consideration in assessing the quality of the asset.

Good transport links are seen as beneficial in assessing the quality of a playground / space and include the consideration of the following:

- Active transport
- Bus routes
- Light rail

Each playground was assessed for "Can I get there?". Generally, Pocket playgrounds get the lower scores, due to most of them being located in isolated neighbourhood blocks, or in a low laying area with minimal visibility. Neighbourhood play spaces and District level play spaces scored 3 or 4. The play spaces listed below in Table 3 scored poorly in the assessment (average score of 3 and below).

The analysis found that the score of "Can I get there?" is highly reliant on the location of the play space. Randwick City Council is working to improve active transport options to improve connectivity to and across the City.

The location of existing playgrounds is mostly set, and it would be difficult to relocate any playgrounds. However, Council should install bike racks when play spaces are upgraded to support active transport links. Also, improved wayfinding signage for existing and new playgrounds would promote nearby play spaces.

When selecting a new location for a play space or in the upgrading of playgrounds, the existing parking system and ease of accessibility to public transportation should be considered. The

connection of a play space to public footpaths and installation of wayfinding signages should be included.

**Table 3 - Low Scoring “Can I Get There?” Playgrounds / Play Spaces**

Playspace	Playspace Name	Suburb
58	Argyle Crescent Reserve	South Coogee
3	Blaxland Reserve Playground	Matrville
29	Blenheim Park Playground	Coogee
30	Boulevard Reserve Playground	Malabar
32	Burnie Park Playground	Clovelly
24	Dr Walters Reserve Playground	Chifley
50	Wills Reserve Playground	Kensington
23	Frank Doyle Park Playground	Randwick
36	Fred Williams Reserve Playground	Phillip Bay
37	Gabee Reserve Playground	Malabar
11	Govett Reserve Playground	Randwick
12	Hereward Reserve Playground	Maroubra
38	Hurley Reserve Playground	Matrville
52	Ingram Street Reserve Playground	Kensington
40	Les Bridges Playground	Kensington
14	Peace Park Playground	Randwick
13	Popplewell Park (lower) Playground	South Coogee
45	Popplewell Park (upper) Playground	South Coogee
2	Quarry Reserve Playground	Maroubra
46	Rabaul Reserve Playground	Matrville
33	Walter Williamson Park Playground	Maroubra
49	Wassell Street Playground	Matrville

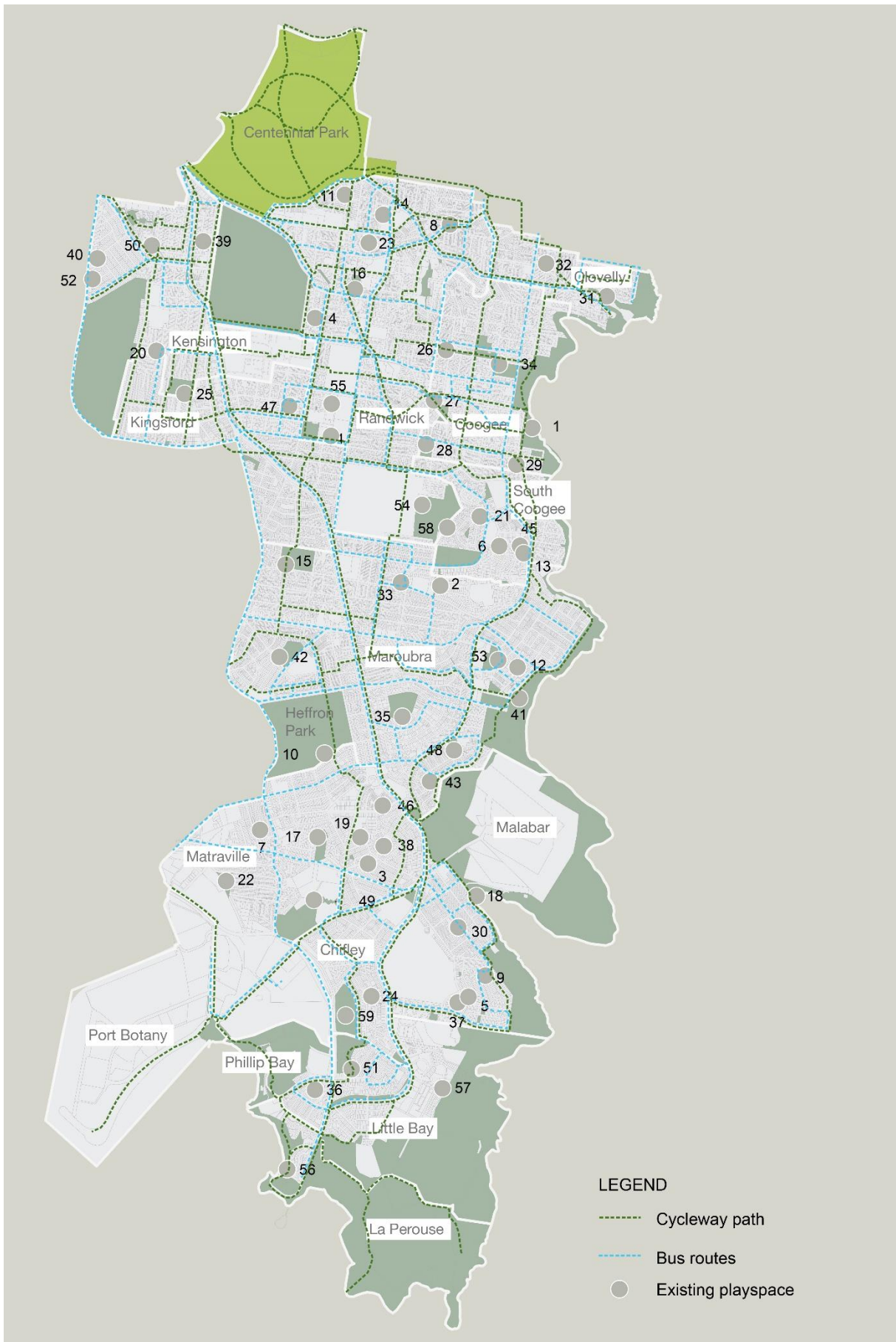


Diagram 2 – Transport links map

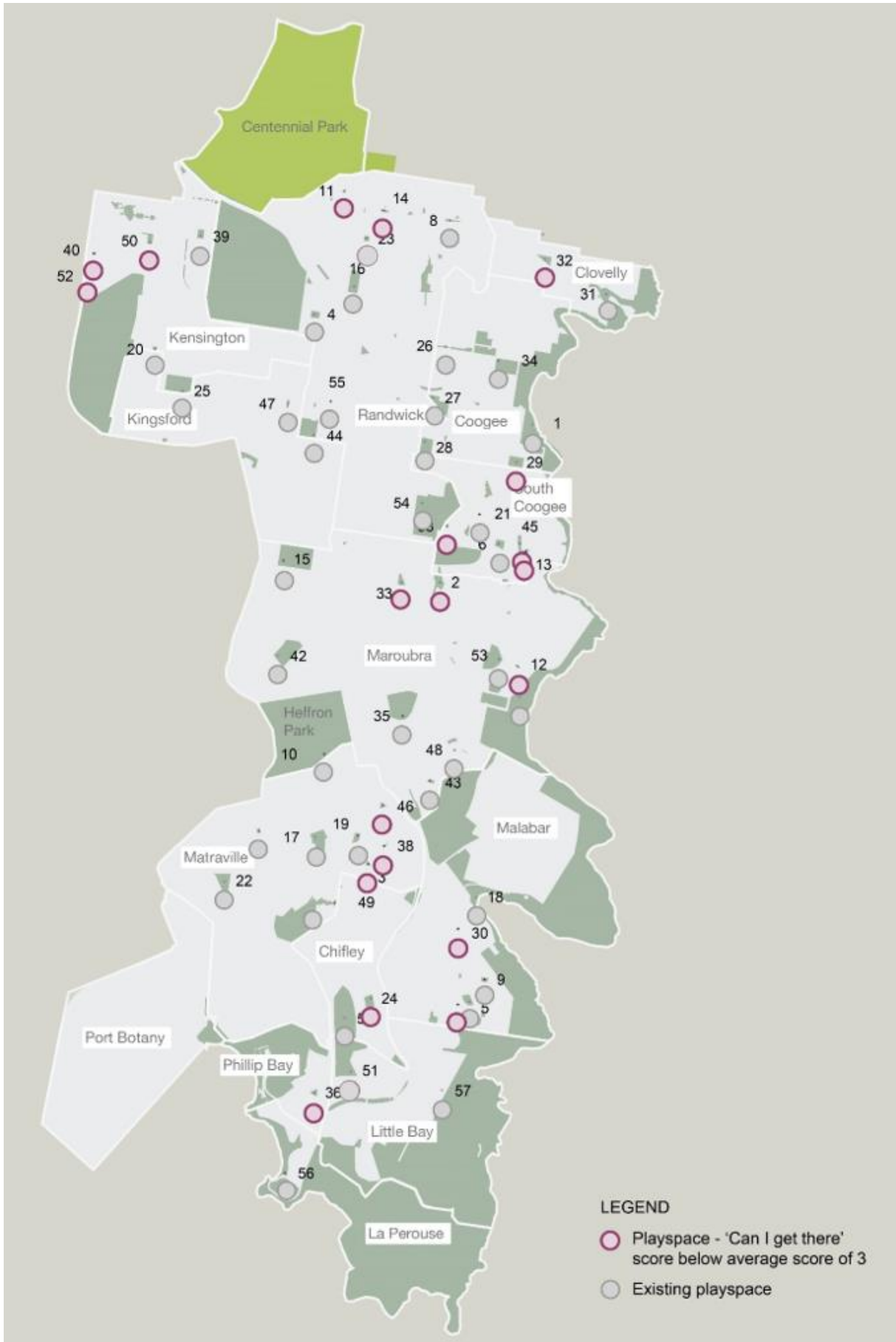


Diagram 3 – Low Scoring “Can I Get There?” Play Spaces

### 4.3. Assessing “Can I Play?”

#### Overview

##### Types of Play

The Open Space & Recreation Needs Study 2021 identifies the need for a greater variety of play spaces. The following list provides types of play that should be considered when designing play spaces:

- **Active Play:** Typically using fixed equipment for swinging, climbing, hanging, balancing, jumping, stepping, and sliding.
- **Imaginative and Creative Play:** Involves made up games or role playing.
- **Social Play:** Communicating and interacting with other children, focusing on language and cooperation.
- **Exploratory and Nature Play:** Using plants, rocks, sand and trees to explore. These elements stimulate the imagination by providing different scents, textures, shapes and colours. They can also encourage bugs, birds, and other wildlife that add to the diversity of the experience.
- **Quiet Play:** Includes reading, talking or playing a sit-down game. To build confidence by allowing an individual or group to quietly observe other children before joining in.
- **Free Play:** Open grassed spaces or slopes provide opportunities for activities such as rolling, running, informal ball games, cartwheels, somersaults, handstands etc. Free play is different from Active play as it enables non prescribed movement in open space.<sup>3</sup>

The following criteria were considered in the assessment of the existing playgrounds for “Can I play?”

- user ages
- play types
- types of ground surface
- nearby sport facilities
- inclusive equipment

#### Outcome

Playgrounds / spaces were assessed for “Can I Play?” against the criteria above. The user ages are divided into three groups, including toddler (0-4 years old), Junior (5-11 years old), Teenager (11-17 years old). The play experience includes 6 play types, including dynamic play, social play, imaginative and creative play, group play, sensory play, as well as quiet play.

“Can I Play?” also evaluates if the playground has inclusive play equipment. The ground surface is also considered in the assessment. If the play equipment is connected by a hard surface, it will help wheelchair users to access the play equipment. Mulch surfaces when being used in the path of travel are considered as non-accessible for wheelchairs. If the play space is close to a sports field, outdoor gym or skate park, it is considered to provide more opportunities for people to play.

Argyle Crescent Reserve Playground, Gabee Reserve Playground, Popplewell Park Playground (Upper and Lower) had the lowest scores for this assessment. They only have limited play equipment, which provides less play experience for users. Also, the play surface is mulched which is generally not accessible for physically challenged participants.

The existing playgrounds were assessed and scored for their play value. The play spaces shown in Table 4 below scored below average scores.

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<sup>3</sup> NSW Government 2020, Department of Planning and Environment, accessed 25 December 2023, <<http://www.everyonecanplay.nsw.gov.au>>

**Table 4 - Low Scoring “Can I play?” Playgrounds / Play Spaces**

Code	Play Space	Suburb	Score
58	Argyle Crescent Reserve	South Coogee	Below Average
37	Gabee Reserve Playground	Malabar	Below Average
12	Hereward Reserve Playground	Maroubra	Below Average
44	Paine Reserve Playground	Randwick	Below Average
13	Popplewell Park (lower) Playground	South Coogee	Below Average
45	Popplewell Park (upper) Playground	South Coogee	Below Average
48	South Maroubra Village Green Playground	Maroubra	Below Average

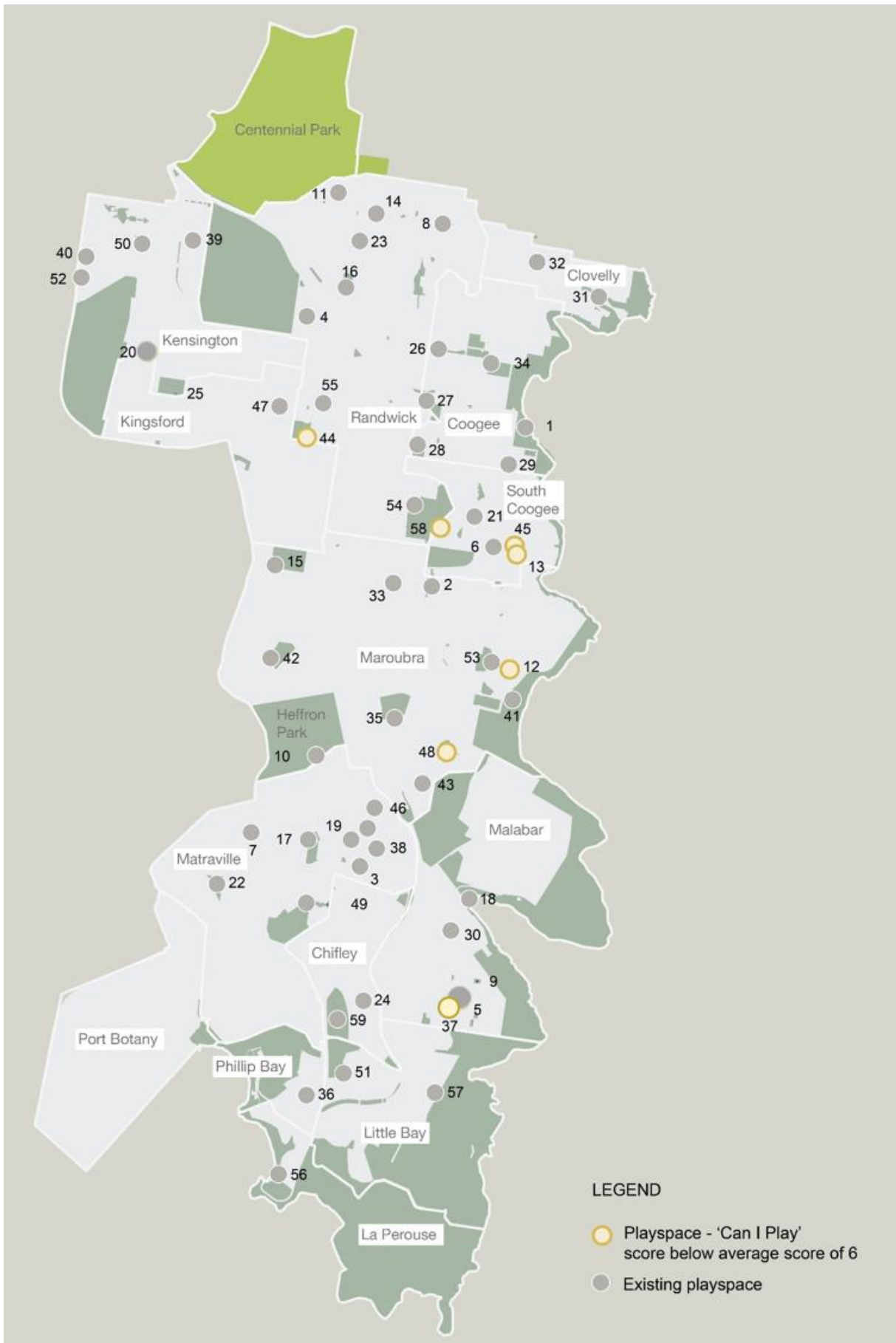


Diagram 4 - "Can I Play?" Play Spaces with below average scores

## 4.4. Assessing “Can I Stay?”

The following criteria were considered in the assessment of “Can I Stay?”:

- fencing
- adequate shade
- picnic tables
- public toilets
- BBQ’s
- drinking fountains
- distance from facilities

### Overview

This section contains seven (7) criteria by considering if the play space has fencing, adequate shade, and if there are facilities within 50m of the play space, including picnic tables, public toilets, BBQ’s and drinking fountains. All play spaces have seats, but not all of them have arm rests which are better for the elderly. Half the play spaces have drinking fountains, but few of them are wheelchair accessible which is preferred. Therefore, this section also evaluates if the facilities consider the wheelchair and elderly users. Good shade means the play space has either a shade structure or evergreen trees.

### Outcome

The analysis found that the play spaces which made people feel safe, enabled people to sit and play under shade, and were close to amenities and drinking fountains encouraged people to stay. It is suggested to create shadier environments for the low scoring playgrounds, as well as adding more inclusive facilities. The shade environment can be created by planting more evergreen trees in the play space or by installing shade structures. However, it doesn’t recommend making the play space too shaded. The 2021 Kids Safe report suggests the shade coverage of childcare centres should not be less than 30% and no more than 70%, which can be considered in our play space design.

The play spaces at Finucane Reserve, Gabee Reserve, Hurley Reserve, Ingram Street Reserve, Rabaul Reserve and Popplewell Park (Upper and Lower) have very low scores, which do not encourage people to stay. Cromwell Park Playground and Munda Street Playground received the best scores.

The play spaces shown in Table 5 were low scoring.

**Table 5 – Low scoring “Can I Stay?” Play Spaces**

Code	Play Space	Suburb	Scores
26	Alby Smith Memorial Park Playground	Coogee	Low
58	Argyle Crescent Reserve	South Coogee	Low
7	Baird Reserve Playground	Matraville	Low
29	Blenheim Park Playground	Coogee	Low
30	Boulevard Reserve Playground	Malabar	Low
24	Dr Walters Reserve Playground	Chifley	Low
19	Finucane Reserve Playground	Matraville	Lowest
37	Gabee Reserve Playground	Malabar	Lowest
6	Gollan Park Playground	South Coogee	Low
12	Hereward Reserve Playground	Maroubra	Low
38	Hurley Reserve Playground	Matraville	Lowest

Code	Play Space	Suburb	Scores
52	Ingram Street Reserve Playground	Kensington	Lowest
21	Jacaranda Playground	South Coogee	Low
40	Les Bridges Playground	Kensington	Low
53	Muraborah Reserve Playground	Maroubra	Low
13	Popplewell Park (lower) Playground	South Coogee	Lowest
45	Popplewell Park (upper) Playground	South Coogee	Lowest
46	Rabaul Reserve Playground	Matraville	Lowest
33	Walter Williamson Park Playground	Maroubra	Low
49	Wassell Street Playground	Matraville	Low

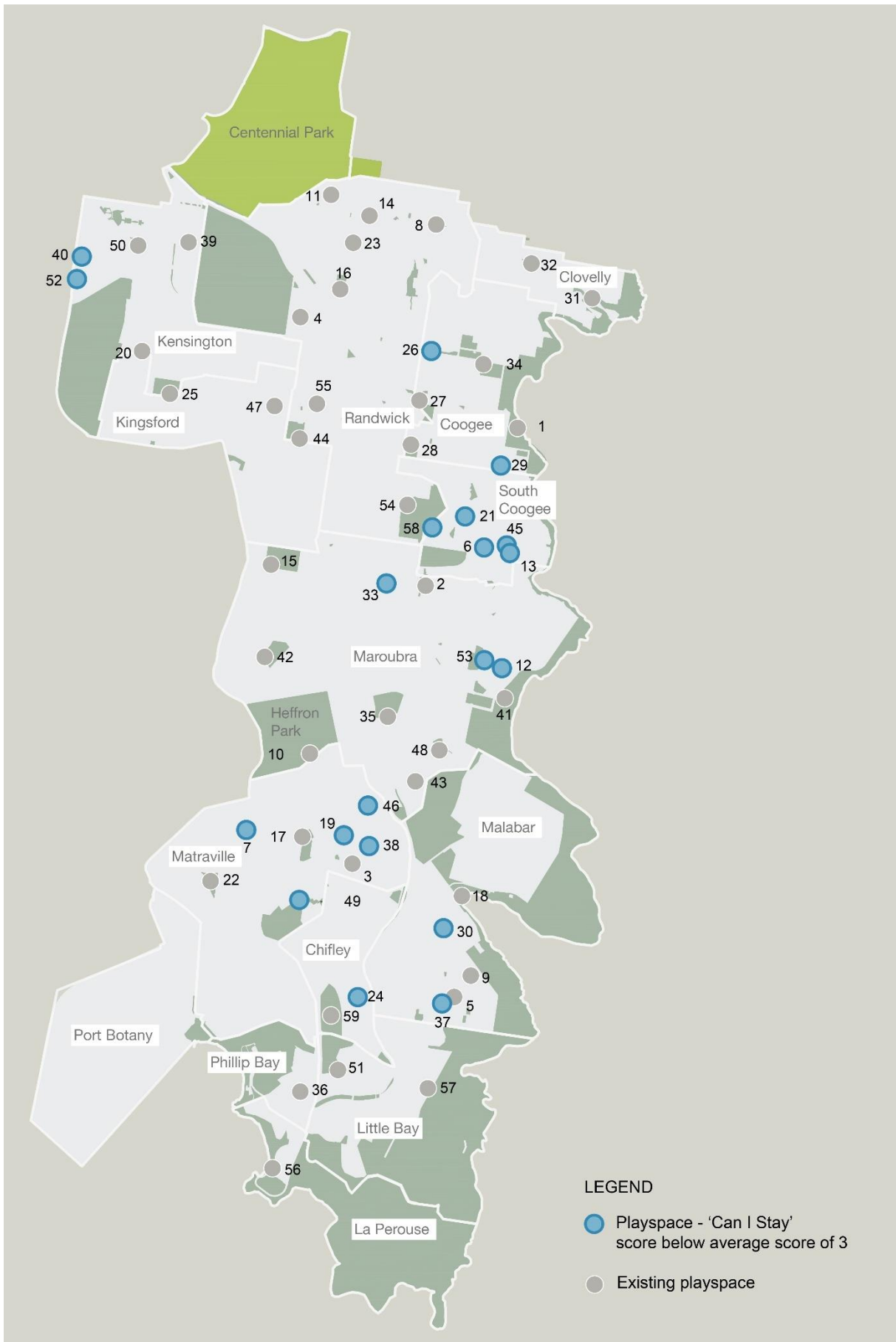


Diagram 5 - Low Scoring “Can I Stay?” Play Spaces

## 4.5. Condition of Play Equipment

Council regularly inspects the play equipment for safety compliance. The play equipment is assessed by a qualified Playground Inspector. The assessment includes the age of the equipment, play equipment condition and other asset management information.

The age is divided into 5 groups, the older the equipment, the lower scores it receives. The play space which has different ages of equipment is scored by the average score. The playgrounds shown in Table 6 have the lowest condition scores and are recommended for an entire upgrade over the next 10 – 15 years.

**Table 6 - Low Scoring Condition Assessment**

Code	Play Space	Suburb	Quality Score
16	Alison Park Playground	Randwick	Low
58	Argyle Crescent Reserve	South Coogee	Low
34	Coogee Oval Playground	Coogee	Low
24	Dr Walters Reserve Playground	Chifley	Low
19	Finucane Reserve Playground	Matraville	Low
37	Gabee Reserve Playground	Malabar	Low
1	Grant Reserve: Stan Windon Memorial Playground	Coogee	Low
12	Hereward Reserve Playground	Maroubra	Low
38	Hurley Reserve Playground	Matraville	Low
40	Les Bridges Playground	Kensington	Low
44	Paine Reserve Playground	Randwick	Low
13	Popplewell Park (lower) Playground	South Coogee	Low
45	Popplewell Park (upper) Playground	South Coogee	Low
47	Shaw Reserve Playground	Kingsford	Low
48	South Maroubra Village Green Playground	Maroubra	Low
49	Wassell Street Playground	Matraville	Low
4	Writtle Park Playground	Randwick	Low

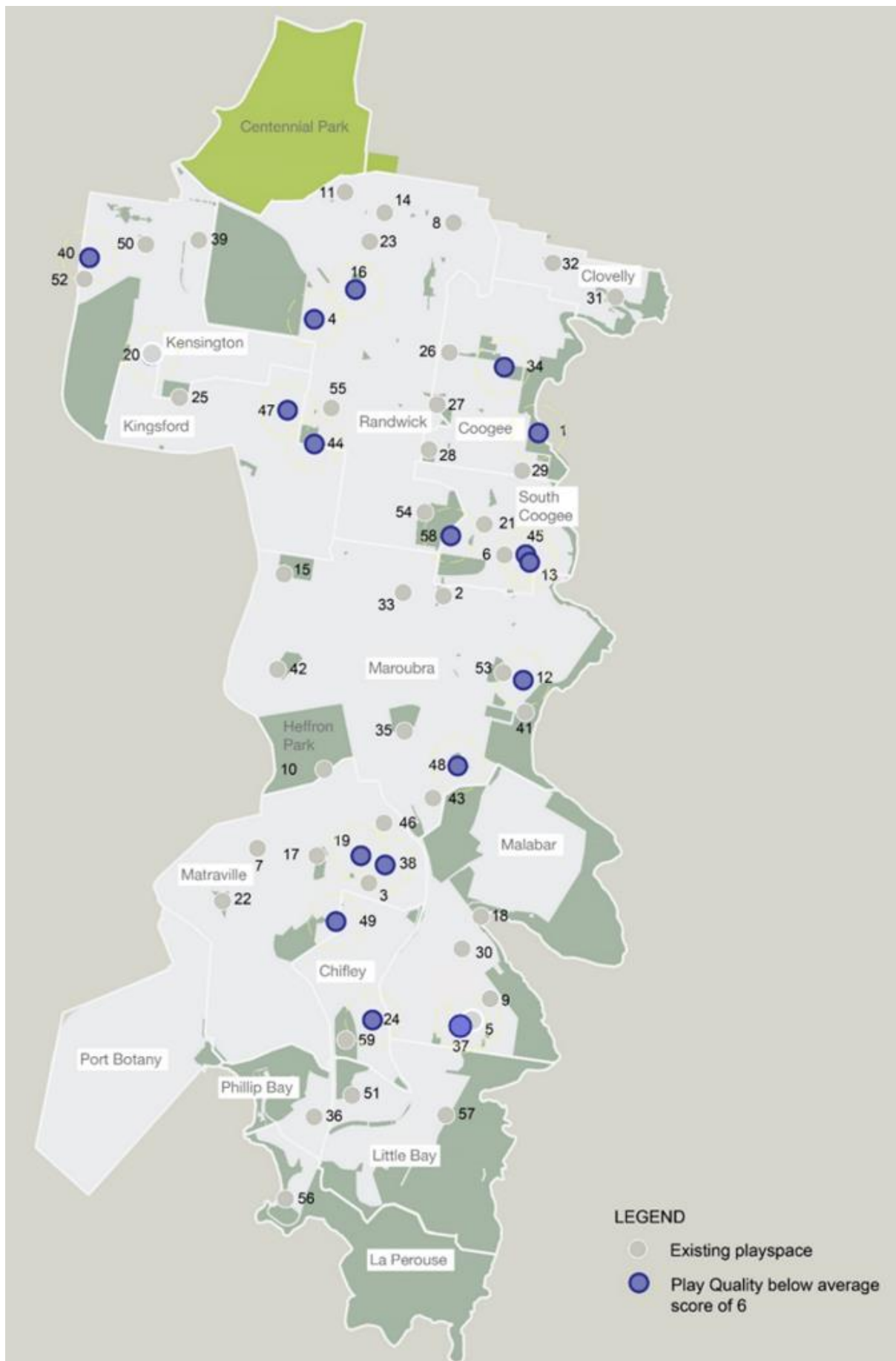


Diagram 6 – Playgrounds with low condition scores

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## 5. Community Voices

### 5.1. Community Consultation

Randwick Council has an adopted Community Participation Plan which outlines how and when Randwick City Council will engage with the community on planning matters, Council projects and other matters of relevance to the local community.

We recognise that the community has insights, skills, knowledge and experience which we value and can be used by Council to make better decisions and improve project outcomes.

When significant upgrade works are to be undertaken on play spaces, Council will undertake community consultation to ensure that we gain knowledge and feedback from our community.

Community consultation is undertaken:

- where community input can improve a project or enhance decision making
- to help identify community needs
- in response to expressions of community interest
- when Council resolves to consult the community or
- when required by law or by agreement with a government agency or statutory body

### 5.2. Consultation for Play Space Strategy

As part of delivering a comprehensive Play Space Strategy, consultation was undertaken to gather community ideas about what makes a great play space and where more play spaces are needed across the Randwick LGA.

The community were invited to share their ideas via online and at our pop-ups, and / or drop pins on our online map on the 'Your Say' webpage. Community input was sought to determine what our residents and visitors think makes a great play space and where we need to build new play spaces. We were especially keen to hear from young people thirteen years and older to find out how we can create safe spaces where they can be outdoors, have fun and meet friends.

The consultation was open for six weeks from 15 May 2023 to 26 June 2023. The objectives for the community consultation were:

- gather ideas for the type of play spaces residents and visitors enjoy
- determine where the community want new play spaces built
- determine community feedback on existing play spaces

Community engagement activities undertaken included:

- Dedicated consultation webpage – 'Your Say'
- Email to Your Say subscribers
- Randwick eNews
- Publicised on social media platforms
- Email to key stakeholders within the Randwick LGA
  - Childcare centres
  - Preschools and primary schools
  - Sydney Children's Hospital
- Pop ups at Heffron Park and Coral Sea Park
- Video featuring the mayor used on social media and in eNews
- Email to all Randwick City Precinct Committees
- Digital display screens at Randwick City libraries, Des Renford Aquatic Centre and Customer Service Centre
- Listing on Randwick City Council's *Current Consultations* webpage
- Councillor notification

## Consultation outcomes

The consultation was open for approximately 6 weeks. During this time, the consultation generated:

- 389 visits to the Your Say Randwick webpage
- 54 ideas shared
- 90 pins dropped on the interactive map
  - 7 pins for toddler space (0-2 yrs)
  - 47 pins for kids space (3-12 yrs)
  - 36 pins for teenage zone (13+ yrs)

The online ideas board generated 54 ideas for what makes a great play space. The most common ideas shared included basketball hoops/courts, free water play, mountain bike/bmx tracks, handball courts, climbing walls, nature play, shaded areas with BBQs and places for small parties.

Table 7 outlines key themes arising from the pins dropped.

**Table 7 - Key Themes**

Key themes from pins dropped	
<b>Teenage zones (13+ years)</b>	There is demand for more sports facilities, particularly basketball courts, tennis courts, cricket nets, and Mountain Bike or BMX tracks. Also mentioned included Volleyball courts, swings suitable for teenagers, climbing zones with hand grip walls and ropes, and Ninja Warrior-style playgrounds.
<b>Kids space (3-12 yrs)</b>	Numerous requests to upgrade existing play spaces with a focus on adding natural elements and risky play activities to make them more engaging for children. Requests for water play areas and splash parks, nature play areas, tennis walls and handball courts. Requests for more seating and shade options, and fenced playgrounds to enhance safety for younger children.
<b>Toddler space (0-2 yrs)</b>	Incorporate imaginative play elements in parks, requests to upgrade existing play spaces to improve safety and add more play elements such as swings, bike tracks, water play and climbing.

## Youth Consultation

Pop-up sessions were held at Heffron Park netball courts and at Coral Sea Park. The purpose was to capture ideas from 12 to 18 year old children who are more difficult to reach.

Teens were asked to jot down their ideas for the types of play spaces they wish to have more of in the Randwick LGA. The most requested play spaces during this pop up was for pools, soccer goals with permanent nets, mountain bike course, giant swing / swings and basketball courts.

## 6. Future Play Spaces

### 6.1. The Need for Play Now

#### Do we have enough play spaces?

The Open Space and Recreation Needs Study advised that “Parks and Leisure Australia (Greater Sydney Commission) recommends a benchmark of one play space for every 2,000 people, with all residents within 400m of a play space. The Greater Sydney Commission recommends that residents in high density be within 200m of a play space”.

Benchmarking indicates a gap of play spaces in the Randwick LGA, with a potential need for 27 additional play spaces by 2038.

The Open Space and Recreation Needs Study found that Coogee, Clovelly, Kensington, Kingsford, Maroubra and Randwick areas will need more play spaces to meet the demands of the increased population in the next 10 – 15 years. However, the existing playgrounds in those high demand areas will be considered as the first priority for upgrade, especially the play spaces that potentially can be enlarged.

Table 35 - Benchmarking Council-managed play spaces within Randwick City (1:2,000)

SA2	Current provision	2016 pop. 148,922		2026 pop. 164,003		2031 pop. 170,541		2041 pop. 179,423	
		NEED	GAP	NEED	GAP	NEED	GAP	NEED	GAP
COOGEE-CLOVELLY	11	13.6	2.6	14.6	3.6	15.0	4.0	15.6	4.6
KENSINGTON	6	7.9	1.9	9.2	3.2	9.9	3.9	10.9	4.9
KINGSFORD	1	8.2	7.2	8.9	7.9	9.3	8.3	9.8	8.8
LA PEROUSE- MALABAR-CHIFLEY	19	12.5	-6.5	13.5	-5.5	14.0	-5.0	14.6	-4.4
MAROUBRA	12	16.3	4.3	17.8	5.8	18.4	6.4	19.3	7.3
RANDWICK	9	15.9	6.9	17.9	8.9	18.6	9.6	19.5	10.5
<b>TOTAL RANDWICK CITY</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>82.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>31.7</b>

Note that this benchmarking reflects Council-managed play spaces within Randwick City only, and does not include non-Council-managed play spaces at Centennial Parklands or Raleigh Park playground.

The acquisition of future land by purchase or developer contribution is a complex process and the Play Space Strategy has not included specific recommendations for this aspect of improving the gap in the provision of play spaces. Table 10 of the Play Space Strategy provides recommendations for where potential new play spaces can be developed.

**Table 8 – Future amenity to be provided within the play space**

Code	Play space	Suburb	Shade	Picnic Setting	Water bubblers	Toilets (Subject to further investigation)
26	Alby Smith Memorial Park Playground	Coogee		X	X	
16	Alison Park Playground	Randwick		X		
58	Argyle Crescent Reserve	South Coogee				
7	Baird Reserve Playground	Matraville		X	X	
27	Baker Park Playground	Coogee		X		
28	Bangor Park Playground	Coogee		X		
17	Barwon Park Playground	Matraville		X		
8	Bieler Reserve Playground	Randwick		X		
3	Blaxland Reserve Playground	Matraville		X		
29	Blenheim Park Playground	Coogee		X	X	
30	Boulevard Reserve Playground	Malabar	X			
31	Bundock Park Playground	Clovelly				
32	Burnie Park Playground	Clovelly			X	X
59	Chifley Reserve Inclusive Playground	Chifley				
57	Coast Hospital Memorial Park	Little Bay		X		X
34	Coogee Oval Playground	Coogee				
35	Coral Sea Park Playground	Maroubra				
18	Cromwell Park Playground	Malabar				
24	Dr Walters Reserve Playground	Chifley	X	X		
5	Ella Reserve Playground	Malabar			X	X
19	Finucane Reserve Playground	Matraville	X	X	X	
20	Fitzpatrick Park Playground	Kensington			X	
23	Frank Doyle Park Playground	Randwick		X		
36	Fred Williams Reserve Playground	Phillip Bay		X		
56	Frenchmans Beach Playground	La Perouse	X		X	
37	Gabee Reserve Playground	Malabar	X			

Code	Play space	Suburb	Shade	Picnic Setting	Water bubblers	Toilets (Subject to further investigation)
6	Gollan Park Playground	South Coogee		X		
11	Govett Reserve Playground	Randwick		X		
1	Grant Reserve: Stan Windon Memorial Playground	Coogee				
10	Heffron Park Playground	Maroubra			X	
12	Hereward Reserve Playground	Maroubra				
38	Hurley Reserve Playground	Matraville	X			
55	Inglis Park Playground	Randwick				
52	Ingram Street Reserve Playground	Kensington	X			
21	Jacaranda Playground	South Coogee				
25	John Calopedos Playground	Kensington		X		
39	Kokoda Park Playground	Kensington				
40	Les Bridges Playground	Kensington				
41	Maroubra Beach Playground	Maroubra				
54	Munda Street Playground	Randwick				
53	Muraborah Reserve Playground	Maroubra		X	X	X
42	Nagle Park Playground	Maroubra		X		
43	Ocean View Reserve Playground	Maroubra				
44	Paine Reserve Playground	Randwick		X	X	
14	Peace Park Playground	Randwick				
13	Popplewell Park (lower) Playground	South Coogee	X			
45	Popplewell Park (upper) Playground	South Coogee	X	X	X	
22	Purcell Park Playground	Matraville				X
2	Quarry Reserve Playground	Maroubra			X	
46	Rabaul Reserve Playground	Matraville	X			
9	Rubie Reserve Playground	Malabar				
47	Shaw Reserve Playground	Kingsford		X		

Code	Play space	Suburb	Shade	Picnic Setting	Water bubblers	Toilets (Subject to further investigation)
15	Snape Park Playground	Maroubra		X	X	
48	South Maroubra Village Green Playground	Maroubra		X		
33	Walter Williamson Park Playground	Maroubra		X	X	
49	Wassell Street Playground	Matraville	X	X	X	
50	Wills Park Playground	Kensington		X	X	X
51	Woomera Reserve Playground	Little Bay				
4	Writtle Park Playground	Randwick		X		

## 6.2. Identified Needs and Response for future Play Spaces

The Open Space and Recreation Needs Study identified a range of current needs and indicators for the Randwick LGA, and these have been expanded in the Play Space Strategy. The findings have been listed below with the response on how to address them as part of this strategy.

**Table 9 - Key Finding and Responses**

	Key Finding	Indicators
	<i>'To deliver new play spaces within future new open space areas in Kingsford that responds to a wide age group including children and students.'</i> <sup>4</sup>	<i>'Kingsford is a high-density growth area, with limited existing play spaces and access to play spaces. Play outside the home will be important for children and families living in apartments.'</i> <sup>5</sup>
<b>Response:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential location for new playground at 140-154R Gardeners Rd, Kingsford</li> <li>• Potential in Anzac Parade Open Space Corridor (Kensington to La Perouse)</li> <li>• Potential to increase Kensington Park (John Calopedos Playground)</li> <li>• Encourage high-density mixed-use developments (podiums and rooftop play) in line with Kensington to Kingsford (K2K) masterplan DCP Part D - section 20 part 20</li> <li>• Incorporate play spaces in line with K2K development. Potential open spaces identified in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Borrodale road widening, Kingsford</li> <li>❖ Market Site Corner (Kensington and Kingsford)</li> <li>❖ Triangle Site Corner (K to K reference)</li> <li>❖ Town Square (K to K reference)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	Key Finding	Indicators
	<i>Increase the amenity of play spaces across Randwick City including well maintained and increased shade, seating, water bubblers and toilets to enable families and children to stay longer.</i>	<i>While benchmarking indicates up to 27 play spaces would be required by 2031, the area is well serviced, and Council's focus should be on improving existing assets.</i>

<sup>4</sup> Randwick City Council, 'Randwick City Open Space and Recreation Needs Study' December 2020.

<sup>5</sup> Randwick City Council, 'Randwick City Open Space and Recreation Needs Study' December 2020.

<b>Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposing priority upgrades to the play spaces listed in Table 11</li> <li>• Ensure all play equipment is kept to a minimum safety standard or better</li> <li>• Increase the types of play on offer at each playground: Active play, imaginative and creative play, social play, exploratory and natural play, quiet play and free play</li> <li>• Parks requiring action to improve maintenance regime: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Walter Williamson Park</li> <li>❖ Baird Reserve Playground</li> <li>❖ Coastal Hospital Memorial Park Playground</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<b>Key Finding</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<i>Increase the amenity of plays paces across Randwick City including well maintained and increased shade, seating, water bubblers and toilets to enable families and children to stay longer.</i>	<i>Community engagement indicated a need for existing play spaces to be upgraded with increased shade, seating and water bubblers and toilets in proximity.</i>
<b>Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can I Stay? (Everyone Can Play Guidelines) needs to be addressed when upgrading or creating a new play space.</li> <li>• Identify playgrounds with poor support amenities, that need to be improved.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Key Finding</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	<i>Increase diversity of play spaces, including more challenging and adventure focused play spaces, more destinalional play spaces, for a range of ages and abilities.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Everyone Can Play by DPE indicates the importance of inclusive play.</i></li> <li>- <i>There are no Council owned regional play spaces within Randwick City.</i></li> <li>- <i>Community engagement indicated demand for play spaces for a range of ages, including babies and toddlers and older children</i></li> </ul>
<b>Response:</b>	Bundock Park Playground, Walter Williamson Park Playground, Coast Hospital Memorial Playground, and Baird Reserve Playground.	

## 7. Outcomes and Action

### 7.1. Summary of proposed strategic actions

- Continue playground upgrades based on the priority list in Table 10 over the next 10-15 years
- Create new play spaces in Kingsford and increase the scale of existing play spaces
- Plan to change 12 existing play spaces from 'Local' to 'Neighbourhood' when they are due for upgrade
- Upgrade two play spaces to a 'Regional' level when the play spaces are due for upgrade
- Improve overall maintenance
- Allocate sufficient funding for new play spaces and to upgrade existing play spaces
- Add supportive amenities in accordance with hierarchy
- Improve provision of inclusive play throughout Randwick City

### 7.2. Priority Upgrades

Table 10 below lists the recommended play spaces in Randwick City for priority upgrade in the next 10-15 years. The play spaces listed in the table were chosen for priority upgrade due to the following:

- Low scores for play space equipment and maintenance quality
- Low scores in the play space design evaluation in accordance with the NSW Everyone Can Play guidelines – 'Can I Play', 'Can I Stay' & 'Can I get There',
- Need requirements for play spaces within Randwick City suburbs as listed in Table 35 – 'Benchmarking Council – managed play spaces within Randwick City (1:2,000) - Randwick Open Space and Recreational Needs Study'.

**Table 10 – Priority Playground / Play Space Upgrades**

Play space Code	Order of priority	Play Space	Suburb	Proposed hierarchy
16	1	Alison Park Playground	Randwick	Local to Neighbourhood
1	2	Grant (Stan Windon) Reserve Playground	Coogee	District to Regional
51	3	Woomera Reserve Playground	Little Bay	Keep existing hierarchy
44	4	Paine Reserve Playground	Randwick	Local to Neighbourhood
40	5	Les Bridges Playground	Kensington	Pocket to Local
4	6	Writtle Park Playground	Randwick	Keep existing hierarchy
47	7	Shaw Reserve Playground	Kingsford	Keep existing hierarchy
48	8	South Maroubra Village Green Playground	Maroubra	Keep existing hierarchy
12	9	Hereward Reserve Playground	Maroubra	Keep existing hierarchy
34	10	Coogee Oval Playground	Coogee	Keep existing hierarchy

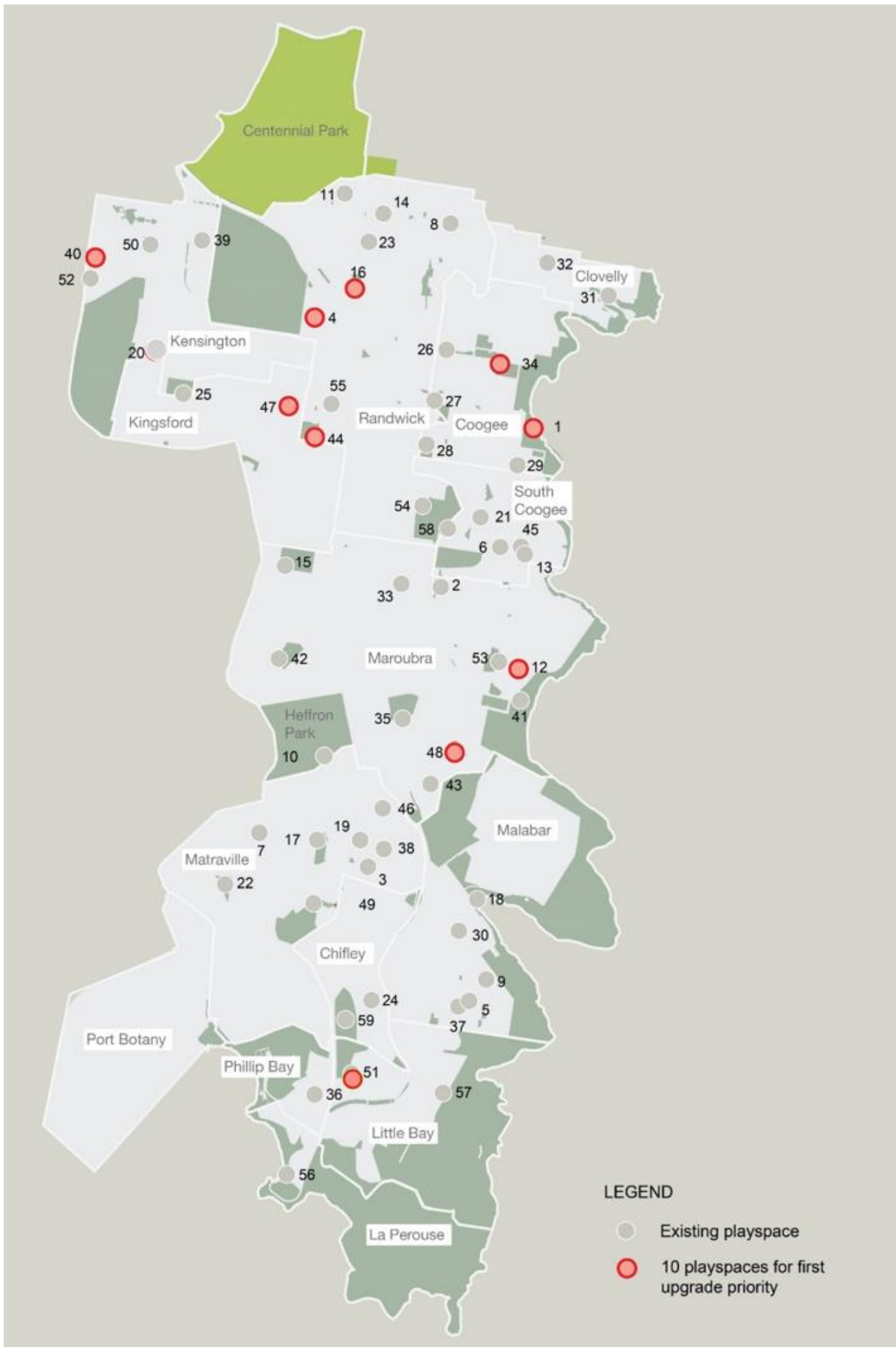


Diagram 7 – Top 10 upgrade priority for play spaces

### 7.3. Recategorisation of Play Spaces

Table 11 outlines the existing categorisation and proposed categorisation for existing play spaces. It is proposed that play spaces should be recategorised when they are upgraded.

### 7.4. Play Space Evaluation

Table 11 outlines the overall evaluation score based on design and Everyone Can Play criteria. The table can be used to determine priorities in line with demand for new play spaces, upgrades due to condition and amenity improvements to better align with the Everyone Can Play guidelines.

**Table 11 – Randwick City play space scores for design evaluation & quality evaluation**

Code	Play Space	Suburb	Existing Categorisation	Proposed Categorisation	Evaluation Score
24	Dr Walters Reserve Playground	Chifley	Local	Local	2.00
37	Gabee Reserve Playground	Malabar	Pocket	Pocket	3.50
1	Grant Reserve	Coogee	District	Regional	3.50
49	Wassell Street Playground	Matrville	Pocket	Local	3.50
45	Popplewell Park (upper) Playground	South Coogee	Pocket	Local	3.75
16	Alison Park Playground	Randwick	Local	Neighbourhood	3.83
38	Hurley Reserve Playground	Matrville	Pocket	Pocket	4.00
19	Finucane Reserve Playground	Matrville	Pocket	Local	4.25
58	Argyle Crescent Reserve	South Coogee	Pocket	Pocket	4.50
34	Coogee Oval Playground	Coogee	Pocket	Pocket	4.50
40	Les Bridges Playground	Kensington	Pocket	Pocket	4.83
5	Ella Reserve Playground	Malabar	Local	Neighbourhood	5.00
13	Popplewell Park (lower) Playground	South Coogee	Pocket	Pocket	5.00
44	Paine Reserve Playground	Randwick	Local	Neighbourhood	5.33
12	Hereward Reserve Playground	Maroubra	Pocket	Pocket	5.50
4	Writtle Park Playground	Randwick	Local	Local	5.50
48	South Maroubra Village Green Playground	Maroubra	Local	Local	5.58
47	Shaw Reserve Playground	Kingsford	Local	Local	5.67
27	Baker Park Playground	Coogee	Local	Neighbourhood	6.00
29	Blenheim Park Playground	Coogee	Local	Local	6.00
30	Boulevard Reserve Playground	Malabar	Pocket	Pocket	6.00
32	Burnie Park Playground	Clovelly	Local	Neighbourhood	6.00
50	Wills Reserve Playground	Kensington	Local	Neighbourhood	6.00
17	Barwon Park Playground	Matrville	Local	Local	6.33
10	Heffron Park Playground	Maroubra	Neighbourhood	Regional	6.33
41	Maroubra Beach Playground	Maroubra	District	District	6.33
9	Rubie Reserve Playground	Malabar	Pocket	Pocket	6.33
42	Nagle Park Playground	Maroubra	Local	Neighbourhood	6.58
36	Fred Williams Reserve Playground	Phillip Bay	Local	Local	6.67

Code	Play Space	Suburb	Existing Categorisation	Proposed Categorisation	Evaluation Score
51	Woomera Reserve Playground	Little Bay	Local	Local	6.67
33	Walter Williamson Park Playground	Maroubra	Local	Local	6.75
54	Munda Street Playground	Randwick	Local	Local	6.83
3	Blaxland Reserve Playground	Matraville	Pocket	Pocket	7.33
21	Jacaranda Playground	South Coogee	Pocket	Pocket	7.33
15	Snape Park Playground	Maroubra	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	7.33
28	Bangor Park Playground	Coogee	Local	Neighbourhood	7.33
8	Bieler Reserve Playground	Randwick	Local	Local	7.50
22	Purcell Park Playground	Matraville	Local	Neighbourhood	7.50
2	Quarry Reserve Playground	Maroubra	Local	Local	7.50
7	Baird Reserve Playground	Matraville	Local	Local	7.83
59	Chifley Reserve Inclusive Playground	Chifley	District	District	8.00
53	Muraborah Reserve Playground	Maroubra	Local	Neighbourhood	8.08
23	Frank Doyle Park Playground	Randwick	Local	Local	8.17
6	Gollan Park Playground	South Coogee	Local	Local	8.50
14	Peace Park Playground	Randwick	Pocket	Pocket	8.50
25	John Calopedos Playground	Kensington	Local	Neighbourhood	8.58
11	Govett Reserve Playground	Randwick	Local	Local	8.67
26	Alby Smith Memorial Park Playground	Coogee	Local	Local	8.83
18	Cromwell Park Playground	Malabar	District	District	8.83
52	Ingram Street Reserve Playground	Kensington	Pocket	Pocket	9.00
56	Frenchmans Beach Playground	La Perouse	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	9.17
57	Coast Hospital Memorial Park	Little Bay	Local	Neighbourhood	9.50
43	Ocean View Reserve Playground	Maroubra	Pocket	Pocket	9.50
31	Bundock Park Playground	Clovelly	Local	Local	10.00
35	Coral Sea Park Playground	Maroubra	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	10.00
55	Inglis Park Playground	Randwick	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	10.00
20	Fitzpatrick Park Playground	Kensington	Local	Local	10.00
39	Kokoda Park Playground	Kensington	Local	Local	10.00
46	Rabaul Reserve Playground	Matraville	Pocket	Pocket	10.00

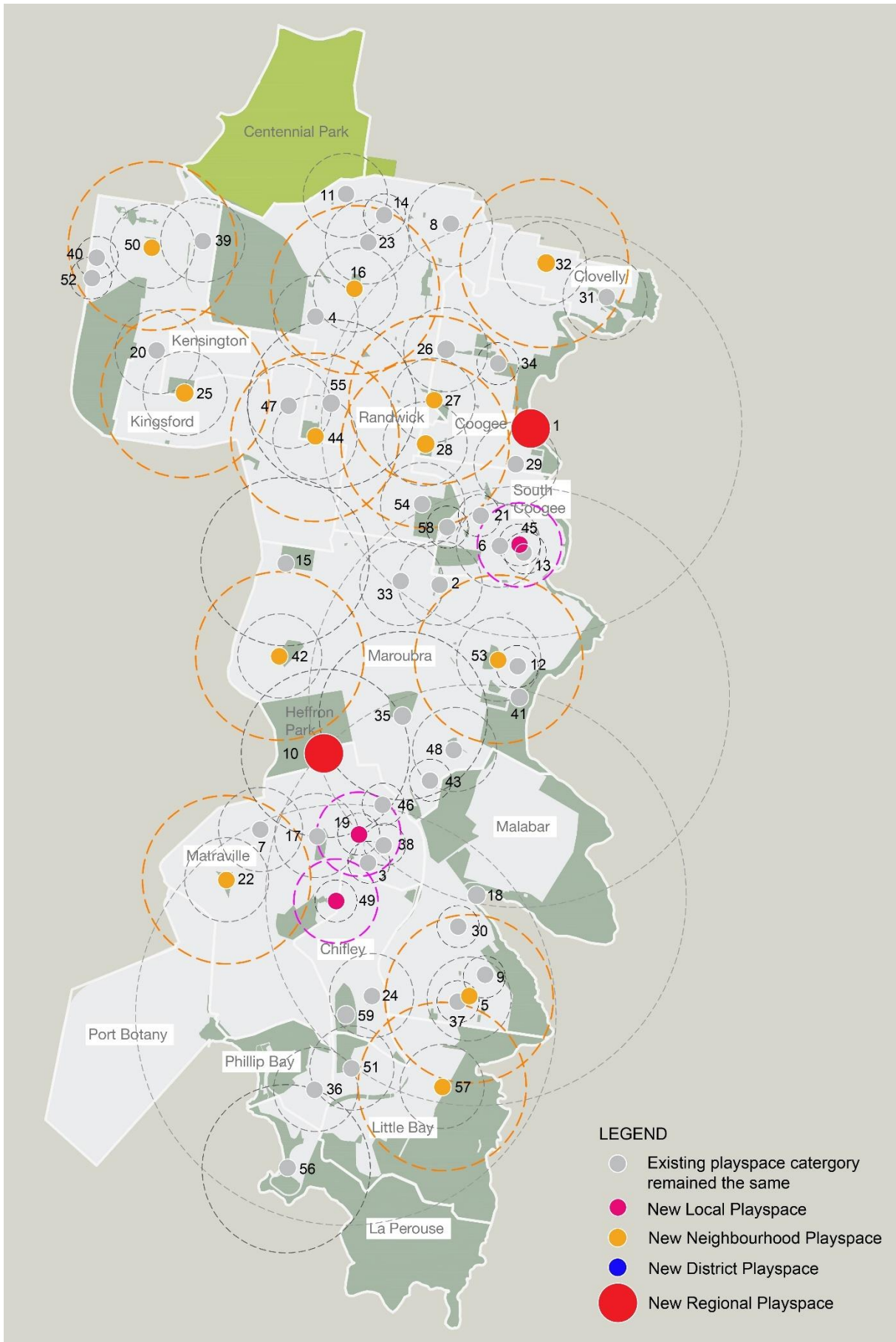


Diagram 8 – The play spaces identified to be recategorised in future upgrades



Coral Sea Park, Maroubra



Coral Sea Park, Maroubra



Walter Williamson Park, Maroubra



Walter Williamson Park, Maroubra



Baird Reserve Playground, Matraville



Baird Reserve Playground, Matraville



Coast Hospital Memorial Park Playground, Little Bay



Coast Hospital Memorial Park Playground, Little Bay

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## 8. Best Practices

### 8.1. Design standards and guidelines

#### Everyone Can Play

The creation of inclusive play spaces requires a new way of thinking about the way play spaces are planned, designed and managed. The three principles of Everyone Can Play encourage thinking about creating more inclusive play spaces across NSW.

#### Can I get there?

Consider location, layout, signage, wayfinding, and accessibility to ensure everyone can find their way to, in and around the play space.

#### Can I play?

The play experience, including the equipment and surfacing, should allow everyone to experience a variety of challenging and engaging play opportunities in a way that suits them.

#### Can I stay?

Consider safety, facilities, landscape and the wider environment to ensure everyone can stay at the play space for as long as they would like.

#### Risk Taking

With an increasing focus on safety in playgrounds, it is important to still have an emphasis on risk-taking. When there is no risk in a playground, it can become boring for children, and they will become disinterested. Risk helps children to extend their boundaries and strengthens their abilities. They learn to assess whether they can climb higher, swing farther, or jump longer.

Children learn how to assess risk from a young age and will proceed with caution in new and potentially dangerous situations. By introducing children to risk in a safe, controlled and supervised environment like a playground, they learn to explore while being careful. Everyday bumps and bruises are a natural part of growing up however, a balance must be found between risk and potential injury.

Playgrounds should still protect children from potential dangers such as entrapment, broken limbs and severely injuries but, rather than providing as little risk as possible, give as much risk as children can handle.

#### Spaces for teenagers

Teenagers need space to play, interact, socialise, exercise, and generally let off steam. Various studies on the usage of public facilities such as playgrounds, skate parks and public parks reveal that an overwhelming percentage of users are male. Teenage girls are looking to public play spaces to gather, whether that be seating nodes, a pair of swings away from the playground or simply an area they feel safe to gather without feeling vulnerable or encroaching on a playground space.

Following community consultation, council gathered a range of play space ideas from teenagers within the Randwick community through several 'pop ups' at sporting activities and council engagements through social media. There was a high demand for more sports facilities, particularly basketball courts, tennis courts, cricket nets and BMX tracks. Also mentioned were swings suitable for teenagers, climbing walls / ropes and ninja warrior-style play spaces.

#### Inclusive spaces

An inclusive play space invites people of all ages, abilities and cultures to come together. Inclusive play spaces are easy to access, easy to move around, provide a range of play options

and challenges. They have appropriate facilities in a comfortable environment. Inclusive play spaces encourage everyone to stay as long as they choose and include more than just equipment - it is the entire setting used and enjoyed as part of the play experience. An inclusive play space utilises principles of inclusive design and accessibility, creating spaces people of all ages and abilities can enjoy.

### **Play Trails**

Play Trails combine mostly nature-themed playground equipment with trails and walkways to create a playful trail experience for children and families. Play activities are installed as pockets of play along a path or trail. Each play trail is created to motivate families to be active, have fun, learn and play together in their local community. Since adults have an affinity for trails, they are likely to explore pathways with children.

Play Trails can use off the shelf playground equipment or be nature-themed and represent animals and their habitats etc. When children explore the trail, they discover fun play activities that teach them about the local flora & fauna. It helps people of all ages experience the outdoors in an innovative and fun way.

The Open Space and Recreation Needs Study identified potential play trails. These are shown in the diagram below.

As part of this strategy all regional and district playgrounds that are new or to be upgraded should include a play trail to the surrounding path network to continue play to and from the play space.

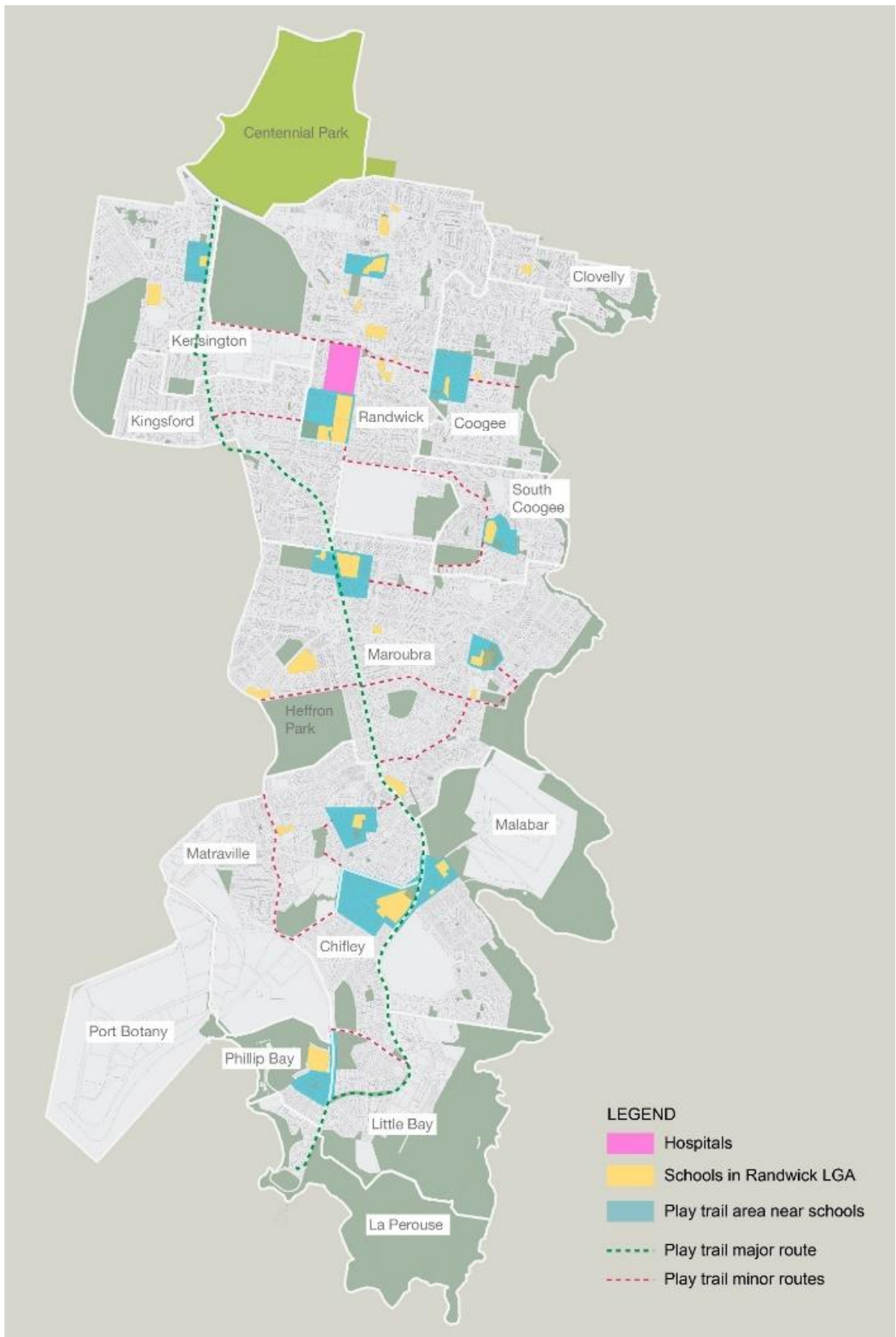


Diagram 9 - Potential Play Trails identified in the Open Space and Recreation Needs Study

## 8.2. Capital and Maintenance Requirements

### Funding

To create play spaces that include all the listed requirements such as ‘Everyone Can Play, risk taking, nature/imaginative play and creating larger play spaces (District & Regional), adequate funding is required.

If funding is not sufficient to implement the listed requirements for their category, this will result in play spaces not meeting the expectations of the community.

To maximise the value of new play spaces and play space upgrades, Randwick Council needs to appropriately plan and budget for these much loved and used play space assets. Below are cost estimates for the various categories of play spaces.

**Table 12 – Estimated budget requirements for various categories of play spaces**

Play space Category	Estimated Budget	Playground requirement
<b>Regional</b>	\$4m - \$5m	More than 20 pieces of equipment and must include 2 large pieces, worth \$500,000 – 1m. Play Space accommodates 150+ participants.
<b>District</b>	\$2m - \$3m	15-20 pieces of equipment, including one large piece worth \$500,000 – 1m. Play Space accommodates 65 participants.
<b>Neighbourhood</b>	\$700,000 - \$1m	8-10 pieces of equipment. Play Space accommodates 45 participants.
<b>Local</b>	\$500,000 - \$700,000	6 pieces of equipment. Play Space accommodates 25 participants.
<b>Pocket</b>	\$400,000-\$500,000	3-4 pieces of equipment. Play Space accommodates 10 participants.

### Maintenance and Operations

To minimise the impact of ongoing maintenance, Council will ensure sound design principles are implemented when new playgrounds and play spaces are constructed. An example is constructing softfall at ground level with subsurface drainage. This reduces the amount of maintenance required to keep the softfall at the correct level compared to above ground softfall.

Regular maintenance of loose softfall, including raking and maintenance of required depths is an important however time-consuming task. The impact of this issue can be minimised through the well-planned use of rubber softfall material pads. High usage areas including under swings, spinning elements and high traffic areas are considered appropriate locations for this treatment.

Shade sails are an expensive item to maintain as they are a common target for vandalism. Shade sails are also a high wear item because of deterioration due to wind and ultraviolet light. For this reason, trees are recommended as the shade solution over shade sails where possible.

Selection of material types for playground equipment is important for managing graffiti. Materials with a rough surface such as some recycled plastics can be very difficult to clean as the graffiti paint is near impossible to remove. Other common types of vandalism in some areas are burning of equipment and breaking smaller components. When developing playgrounds in suburbs where vandalism readily occurs, robust equipment needs to be selected.

### Asset Management

Regular inspection of playgrounds should be undertaken to ensure the equipment is safe and in good working order. Any defects should be scheduled for maintenance following the

inspections. In the development of this strategy a full audit of the playground network was undertaken, and the following factors considered:

- Functionality – Does the playground fulfil the level of service desired by the users?
- Aesthetics – How does the playground look?
- Obsolescence – Is the playground dated?
- Utilisation – How often is the playground used?
- Softfall – What condition is the under surface soft fall in?

The underlying principle in Asset Management is Life Cycle Cost Analysis. It is important when assessing sustainability because this analysis includes both capital expenses considered for a new asset, and the perpetual maintenance costs to keep the asset in a usable condition.

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## 9. APPENDIX

The following is a list of current standards for playgrounds, however when new or playground upgrades are proposed, the relevant standards should be used.

### Australian Standards

#### **Australian Standard AS 4685 Playground equipment and surfacing**

Part 0 – Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

Part 1 – General safety requirements & test methods

Part 2 – Additional specific safety requirements & test methods for swings

Part 3 - Additional specific safety requirements & test methods for slides

Part 4 - Additional specific safety requirements & test methods for runways

Part 5 - Additional specific requirements & test methods for carousels

Part 6 - Additional specific requirements & test methods for rocking equipment

Part 11 - Additional specific safety requirements & test methods for spatial networks

#### **Australian Standard AS 4422: Playground surfacing - Specifications, requirements and test method**

#### **Australian Standard AS 1428: Design for access and mobility**

Part 1 - General requirements for access - New building work

Part 2 - Enhanced and additional requirements - Building and facilities

Part 3 - Requirements for children and adolescents with physical disabilities

Part 4 - Means to assist the orientation of people with vision impairment – Tactile ground surface indicators

Part 5 - Communication for people who are deaf or hearing impaired

**Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 8124 Part 6** (ISO 8124-4:2014, MOD) Safety of toys - Swings, slides and similar activity toys for indoor and outdoor family domestic use

**Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS ISO 31000:** Risk management - Principles and guidelines

**Australian Standard AS 4989:** Trampolines for domestic use - Safety aspects

**Australian Standard AS 3533.4.2:** Amusement rides and devices. Part 4.2: Specific requirements - Contained play facilities.

**Australian Standard AS1663:** Permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment - Safety requirements and test methods

**Australian Standard EN AS14974:2021:** Skateparks - Safety requirements and test methods

**Australian Standard EN AS16899:2020:** Parkour equipment - Safety requirements and test methods

**Australian Standard EN AS16579:2020:** Playing Field equipment - Portable and permanent socketed goals - Safety requirements and test methods

**Australian Standard TR CEN 17519:2021:** Synthetic turf facilities

