



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

Playspace Audit and Plan

INTRODUCTION

Sorell Council provides a range of play opportunities for children throughout our network of 14 playspaces located in our parks and reserves.

We have created a plan to improve playgrounds and play areas across the region. The Plan focuses on improving our playspaces over the next 10 years so they better meet the needs of children, families and our growing community. It recommends clear priorities for upgrades, new playspaces, and investment across the municipality.

Our community is growing fast – faster than most places in Tasmania. More families and children mean we need more places to play. Play is vital for kids' development, health and wellbeing. Good play areas also help families and community connect and enjoy the outdoors.

A Playspace Audit & Plan has been commissioned to document the age and suitability of the playspace features and to ensure our capacity to provide for future needs as the municipality grows.

The Communication and Engagement Plan was developed to seek initial feedback from the community by partnering with the consultant from 180 Sports & Leisure Solutions, and secondly through our own communication and engagement channels to gather feedback on the findings from the first round of consultation.

ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

First Round:

A survey was organised and advertised by way of posters at all playspaces to encourage people to participate in the survey.

We also went in person to the following parks to engage with community:

- Boat Park – **Monday 3 March 2025 3pm to 4 pm** – spoke to 5 people
- Madison Lyden Park – **Wednesday 5 March 3pm to 4pm** – spoke to 5 people
- Pioneer Park – **Tuesday 11 March 9am to 10 am** – spoke to 3 people
- Flyway Island Park – **Friday 7 March 3 pm to 4 pm** – spoke to 2 people
- Imlay Street Park – **Friday 7 March 3 pm to 4pm** – spoke to 1 person

A workshop organised inviting key stakeholders on **13 March 2025 11 am to 12.30pm** with Mark Band from 180 Sports & Leisure Solutions presenting.

Survey and feedback sought was advertised:

- In person as above
- In the Sorell Times (March 2025 edition)



- E-News (March edition)
- Facebook and Instagram
- Website
- Councillors

Second Round:

To seek community feedback to confirm whether the Plan's proposed growth provisions and priorities align with community needs and expectations. Engagement was sought through the following channels and activities:

- Pop-up stall at the Gateway Shopping Complex on Thursday 27 November from 1.30pm – 4.30pm
- Have Your Say article on website
- Several posts on social media channels.
- Online form/survey to capture feedback
- Promoted via our usual channels – Sorell Times, social media, E-News, website etc.
- Engagement Banners at The Nest and Sorell Library

The online survey was open for community feedback from 3rd Nov to 30th Nov 2025.

PARTICIPATION

First Round:

Survey

A total of 134 people responded to the survey – opened 14 Feb, closed 4 April 2025.

Workshop

9 people attended the workshop – including councillors and Mayor Janet, Carmel, Melinda, Marisol and Michael, 2 people from Variety, 1 x NDIS carer, 1 x SE Tas Salvos, 1 x Dunalley Tasman NH.

Consultant from:

180 Sports & Leisure Solutions – Mark Band

Face to face

Casual engagement at playspaces 10 people

Facebook views

Over 3 posts = 7,080 views

Sorell Times

10,000 reach across South East Coast

E-News

300

Second Round:

Survey

Survey open from 3 November to 30 November 2025 to capture community feedback – **no responses received.**

Face to face

Pop-up stall at Gateway Shopping Centre, spoke to 25 people

Facebook views

Over 3 posts = 10678 Facebook views

Sorell Times

10,000 reach across South East Coast

E-News

300 reach to mailing list

Posters

Consultation posters promoting the Draft Plan with QR code linked to website *Have Your Say* page was placed onsite at all 14 playspaces for a period of two weeks.

Engagement Banners at The Nest and Sorell Library

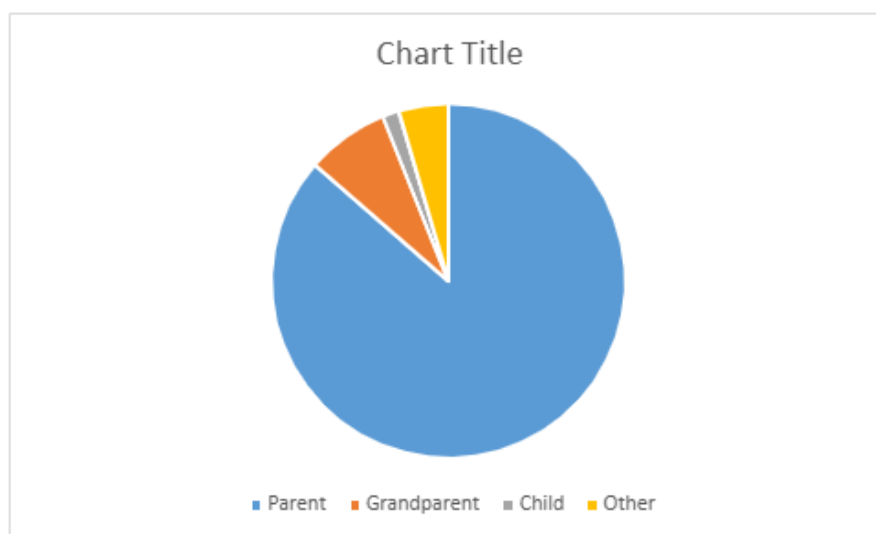
QR code linked to website *Have Your Say* page

WHAT WE HEARD – KEY THEMES AND FEEDBACK

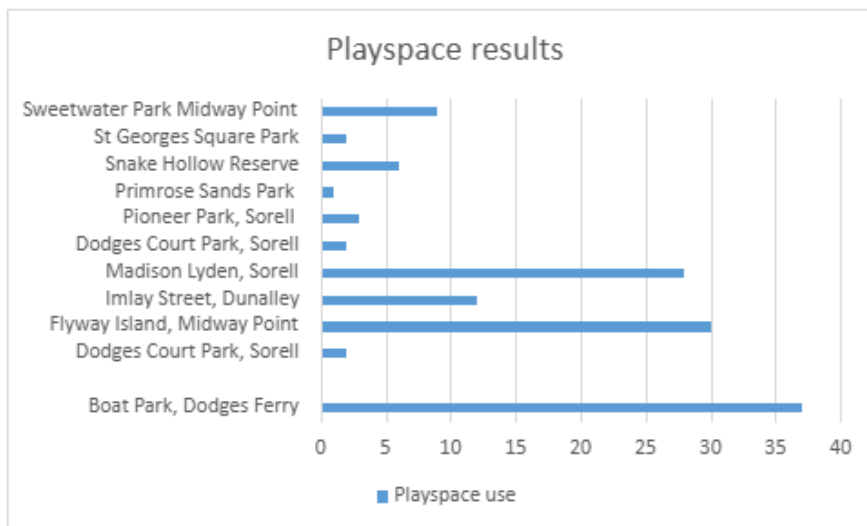
First Round:

Survey Response (134 responders) and face to face feedback.

1. Details of survey responders



2. Most visited playspaces



3. Frequency of visits to municipal playspaces
 - Over 65% visited a playpark at least once a week.
 - And 97% visited a playpark at least once a month.

FEEDBACK RESPONSES

Most requested feedback from survey and one to one chats

- More shade
- More toilets and parking - especially at Madison Lyden (already in process)
- More bike racks, water fountains

Type of play

- Play that encourages risk taking
- Nature play
- Balance play

Second Round:

Summary of feedback from social media (Facebook posts) and pop-up at Sorell Gateway Complex (no feedback received via online survey):

- **Amenities:** Strong demand for toilets, BBQs, picnic tables, and covered seating across parks, particularly for families with young children.
- **Shade:** Widespread requests for increased shade to improve comfort and usability in warmer months.
- **Playground Upgrades & Access:** Support for upgrading and better maintaining playgrounds, along with questions about public access to school-based play equipment (e.g. Dunalley, Dodges Ferry, Sorell).
- **Loss of Play Spaces:** Concern over the removal of the Midway Point Park & Ride playground and calls for replacement or alternative recreational uses.
- **Parking & Access:** Ongoing issues with inadequate parking and congestion, especially at Flyway Park.
- **Inclusive & Diverse Recreation:** Requests for disability-friendly play equipment, adult exercise equipment (e.g. Dodges Ferry Boat Park), and expanded facilities for different age groups.

HOW THE FEEDBACK WILL INFORM THE STRATEGY

First Round:

The information gathered during the pop-ups at the playspaces, the data from the survey, and information from the stakeholder workshop during first round of consultation was used by 180 Sport & Leisure to develop the Draft Playspace Audit and Plan.

Second Round:

The information gathered during the pop-up at Gateway Shopping Complex and comments from social media will be provided to 180 Sport & Leisure to inform the final version of the Playspace Audit and Plan to ensure the identified priorities meet the needs and expectations of our community.

The final Plan will be provided to Councillors for assessment and discussion at a workshop. The Plan will then be tabled at a Council meeting for approval and adoption by Council.

NEXT STEPS

Timeline for Plan finalisation

Second round feedback was provided to Mark at 1870 Sports & Leisure for inclusion in the final copy of the Playspace Audit and Plan. The Plan will be workshopped with Councillors in early February and presented to Council for endorsement at the February 2026 meeting.

How the community will be updated

The approved plan and associated staging plan will be promoted to our community via our usual communications and engagement channels – Sorell Times newspaper, social media channels, E-News and website.