SORELL PLAYSPACE AUDIT AND PLAN – PLAYSPACE HIERARCHY

The Sorell Playspace Audit and Plan 2026 establishes a hierarchy for Council's playspaces based on their purpose, the communities they serve, the age groups they cater for and the facilities they provide.

The hierarchy helps Council plan, develop and upgrade playspaces consistently across the municipality, while recognising that not every playground needs the same equipment or facilities. A key principle of the Plan is that playspaces should complement one another rather than duplicate the same play experiences.

PLAYSPACE CLASSIFICATIONS AND COMPONENTS

1. Loal Playspace

Typically within 500 metres of home. Not all local playspaces require formal equipment or every listed component. Natural play opportunities may be more appropriate, particularly where nearby playgrounds already offer traditional equipment.

Purpose: Provide accessible, informal play opportunities for younger children close to home.
Primary age group: 1–6 years.
Typical components:

- Approximately 3–5 pieces of play equipment.
- Imaginative or creative play areas, including natural play settings.
- Opportunities for physical, social and cognitive development.
- Seating positioned to allow parents and carers to supervise children.
- Natural or constructed shade.

2. Neighbourhood Playspace

Typically within 1–2 kilometres of home. Neighbourhood playspaces are intended as destinations families deliberately visit, rather than simply places children stop at while walking through their local area. Public toilets are not necessarily required at this level.

Purpose: Serve a broader neighbourhood and provide a more diverse range of play opportunities for different ages and abilities.
Primary age group: 4–12 years, with provision for toddlers aged 1–3.
Typical components:

- Five or more pieces of play equipment catering for ages 1–12.
- Imaginative and creative play areas, including natural settings.
- Non-structured or open play areas.
- Dedicated areas for adults and carers.
- Picnic tables and shelters.
- Rubbish bins.
- Play areas positioned away from main roads where possible.

3. District Playspace

Serves multiple neighbourhoods or a wider district. District playspaces are generally located near significant community features, such as sporting facilities, waterways, civic areas or historic sites.

Purpose: Provide a destination playspace with a wider range of recreational opportunities for children and families from across surrounding communities.
Primary age group: All ages.
Core components identified in the Plan:

- Play equipment catering for all age groups.
- Imaginative and creative play areas, including natural settings.
- Non-structured or open play areas.
- Areas for adults and carers.
- Fencing or secured play areas where there are significant safety risks, such as nearby main roads.

4. Regional Playspace
Serves the municipality and attracts regional visitors

Purpose: Provide a major destination with distinctive play experiences that encourage people to travel from across the municipality and beyond.
Primary age group: All ages, including opportunities for the whole family.
Typical components and features:

- The core play elements associated with district playspaces.
- Unique attractions, such as adventure playgrounds or water play.
- Custom-designed or themed play experiences.
- High-quality landscaping and integration with the natural environment.
- Larger spaces that can accommodate community events, carnivals or concerts.
- A variety of recreational experiences that encourage longer visits.

Regional playspaces are intended to offer something distinctive rather than simply a larger version of a neighbourhood playground.

Classification	**Catchment**	**Main Focus**	**Play Equipment**
Local	Up to 500m	Young children, close to home	Approximately 3–5 pieces
Neighbourhood	1 – 2km	Broader age groups & varied activities	5+ pieces
District	Wider district	All ages, multiple play experiences	Range catering for all ages
Regional	Municipality & beyond	Unique destination experiences	Diverse, often specialised equipment