FAQ- Play Space and Outdoor Exercise Equipment Strategy

MORNINGTON PENINSULA Shire

1. **What is the Play Space and Outdoor Exercise Equipment Strategy?**
The Play Space and Outdoor Exercise Equipment Strategy is a long-term planning document being developed by Mornington Peninsula Shire Council to guide future planning, investment, and improvements to public play spaces and outdoor exercise equipment across the Shire.
The strategy will help Council understand how these spaces are currently performing, where improvements are needed, and how future investment can best respond to community needs.

2**. Why is Council developing this strategy?**
The strategy builds on the recently completed Open Space Strategy and focuses specifically on play spaces and outdoor exercise equipment across the municipality.
Council wants to better understand:

- How existing spaces are being used
- What is working well
- Where there are gaps or barriers
- What types of experiences the community values most
- What best practice looks like
- Where future investment should be prioritised

3. **What types of spaces are included in the project?**
The strategy focuses on public play spaces and outdoor exercise and fitness equipment located within public open spaces.

4. **What is not included in the project?**
The strategy does not include:

- Play spaces located within early years settings, kindergartens, or childcare centres
- School playgrounds
- Indoor recreation facilities
- Privately owned play spaces
- Skate parks, BMX facilities, or organised sporting infrastructure (unless directly connected to play or outdoor exercise spaces)

5. **How many play spaces and outdoor fitness locations are included?**
Across the Mornington Peninsula Shire there are currently approximately:

151 public play spaces
9 outdoor fitness stations

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6. **What issues will the strategy consider?**
The strategy will explore a range of factors including:

- Accessibility and inclusion
- Quality and condition
- Diversity of play experiences
- Opportunities for different age groups and abilities
- Comfort and safety
- Location and distribution
- Future community needs
- Best practice frameworks
- Opportunities for improvement over time

7. **Why are play spaces and outdoor exercise equipment important?**
These spaces support:

- Physical activity and movement
- Social connection
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Inclusive and accessible community experiences
- Opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to be active outdoors
- Well-planned public spaces help create healthier, more connected communities.

8. **How can I have my say?**
Council is inviting community members to share their experiences, ideas, and priorities through:

- An online survey
- Community drop-in sessions
- Stakeholder and advisory group discussions

- Online Survey
- mornpen.vic.gov.au/playfit
- Open from Monday 25 May 2026 to Sunday 21 June 2026
- Community Drop-In Sessions

- 10am to 1pm, Wednesday 3 June, Mornington Library
- 10am to 1pm, Wednesday 10 June, Hastings Library
- 10am to 1pm, Friday 12 June, Rosebud Library

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9**. What kind of feedback is Council looking for?**
Council is interested in hearing about:

- What you value most in play spaces and outdoor fitness areas
- Barriers or challenges you experience
- Gaps in the current network
- Ideas for improvement
- Priorities for future investment
- How these spaces can better support different ages, abilities, and communities

10. **Will this strategy identify new play spaces?**
The strategy may identify areas where additional play opportunities or upgrades are needed. However, it does not commit Council to delivering specific projects immediately.
Future projects and upgrades will be subject to Council priorities, funding, and future budget processes.

11. **Will existing play spaces be removed?**
The strategy will review the overall network of play spaces and outdoor exercise equipment across the Shire. This may include considering:

- The role and function of different spaces
- How well spaces are performing
- Duplication or gaps in provision
- Opportunities to improve quality and accessibility

Any future decisions regarding significant changes would involve further assessment and community engagement where appropriate.

12**. How will accessibility and inclusion be considered?**
Accessibility and inclusion are key priorities of the strategy.
The project will consider:

- Physical access
- Comfort and safety
- Opportunities for people of different ages and abilities
- Inclusive play experiences
- Age-friendly design
- Information and visual communication
- Barriers to participation and use

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13**. What happens after community consultation?**
Community feedback will help inform:

- The assessment of existing play spaces and outdoor fitness equipment
- Future priorities and recommendations
- Development of the Draft Strategy and Implementation Plan

A Draft Strategy will then be prepared and released for further community feedback before being finalised.

14. **When will the project be completed?**
The project is expected to run from February to November 2026 and will be delivered across five stages:

- Project Establishment
- State of Play Analysis and Phase 1 Consultation (current stage)
- Strategic Frameworks
- Draft Strategy and Phase 2 Consultation
- Final Strategy and Implementation Plan

15. **Where can I find updates about the project?**
Project updates, consultation opportunities, and key project documents will be available on Council's website throughout the project.

You can also follow this project on Shape by clicking the "Follow" button in the project banner. If you complete the online survey, you will also be invited to sign up and follow the project for updates.