WARAMANGA PLAYSPACE REFERENCE GROUP SUBMISSION TO THE BETTER SUBURBS CITIZENS' FORUM

If you have any questions on the Waramanga playspace submission, please direct them to the Waramanga Playspace Reference Group and Waramanga Shops Owners via Elizabeth Hoyt at Elizabeth.Hoyt@pmc.gov.au

1. *The value of play spaces for your organisation, your programs or the communities you work with.*

- The four ageing playgrounds in Waramanga, half of which are between 23-33 years old (TCCS advises playgrounds only have a lifespan of 15 years), are inadequate and run down. They are not servicing the needs of young families in the area. Waramanga has received limited infrastructure investment and there is no regional playspace anywhere in the Weston Creek region (refer Attachment A).
- The Waramanga Playspace Reference Group (WPRG) was established in February 2017 to progress a playspace proposal on behalf of the community. The WPRG is comprised of eight members including local shop owners, residents of Waramanga and the Weston Creek Community Council.
- Five stages of community consultations were held throughout 2017/2018 to inform this submission, including a petition at the shops that was tabled in the legislative Assembly, three consultations at Community Council Meetings in April and September (2017), February (2018) and a Waramanga Block Party in October (2017).
- Community members have been working closely with the WCCC and TCCS officers to develop this proposal, which was presented to the ACT Legislative Assembly on 21 March 2018, where the following was agreed:
    - (g) commit to the establishment of a new playground at Waramanga shops; and
    - (h) report back to the Assembly on progress by July 2018.
- Playspaces are of the utmost value to Waramanga community members, as witnessed by the significant community action that has occurred over the past three years. A playspace will help build community cohesion, strengthen the local economy, support the local shops and bring much needed vibrancy back to the local area following the bikie shootings and multiple shop break-ins.

2. *Any other comments or recommendations you would like to communicate to the Forum.*

For more information on our proposal, please refer to our detailed submission and letter from all Waramanga shop owners advocating for the playspace, which are provided as separate attachments.

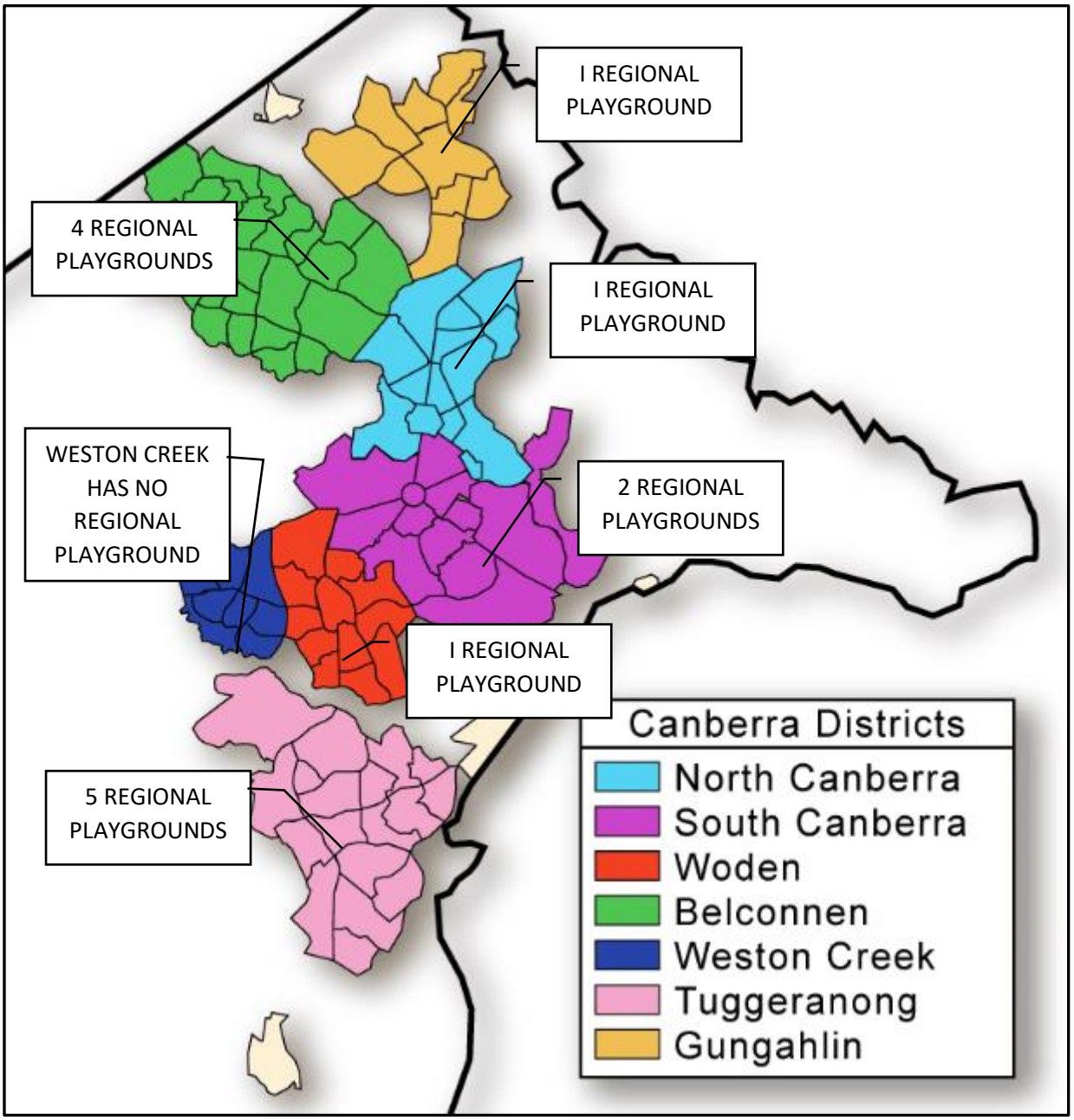
This community-led initiative has generated significant media coverage, including in local newspapers (front page of the Canberra Chronical twice and Queanbeyan Age, Canberra Weekly, City News, Riot Act), radio stations and social media.

In 2018, Waramanga will celebrate its 50-year anniversary. New community infrastructure at the shops would be a wonderful way to celebrate this important milestone and could be incorporated into 50-year celebrations at the shops.

The Minister is very supportive of the Waramanga Playspace Reference Group's submission, stating in the ACT Legislative Assembly: *"As the minister responsible for playgrounds, I am also a keen user of playgrounds and I know how important they are in our community to parents, to kids and to grandparents. Waramanga's local infrastructure, including playgrounds, is getting older and presents challenges. It may not meet the needs of communities today, and it does present some challenges in ongoing maintenance. I congratulate the Waramanga community as a whole on their proposal and appreciate the significant consultation and campaigning on the importance of a playground at their local shops. I recognise that they have been working hard together to support the proposal for a new playground, and in their work recently in the lead-up to this year's Waramanga and Weston Creek 50th anniversary."*

Attachment A – Map of Regional Playgrounds in Canberra

Weston Creek is the only region in Canberra with no regional playground. This means that Weston Creek residents are the only members of the Canberra community that must travel outside their district to find a nice playground. Additionally, no public toilet facilities are maintained by the ACT Government anywhere in Canberra. There is a clear lack of investment to support playground infrastructure in Waramanga and Weston Creek more broadly, which has clear health and social disadvantages for families in the area.



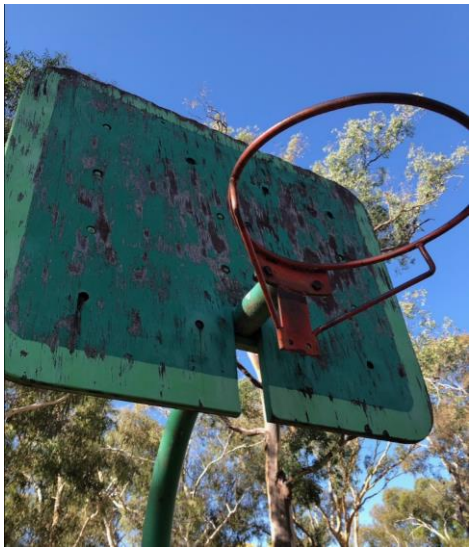
LOCATIONS OF REGIONAL PLAYGROUNDS AROUND CANBERRA

PLAYGROUND	TYPE	LOCATION	REGION
1. LAKE TUGGERANONG DISTRICT PLAYGROUND	DISTRICT	GREENWAY	TUGGERANONG
2. TUGGERANONG TOWN DISTRICT PARK	DISTRICT	GREENWAY	TUGGERANONG
3. POINT HUT POND DISTRICT PLAYGROUND	DISTRICT	GORDON	TUGGERANONG
4. KAMBAH DISTRICT PARK PLAYGROUND	DISTRICT	KAMBAH	TUGGERANONG
5. EDDISON DISTRICT PARK (WEST) DISTRICT PLAYGROUND	DISTRICT	PHILLIP	WODEN
6. UMBAGONG DISTRICT PARK DISTRICT PLAYGROUND	DISTRICT	LATHAM	BELCONNEN
7. GINNINDERRA PENINSULA DISTRICT PARK	DISTRICT	BELCONNEN	BELCONNEN
8. WESTERN FORESHORE DISTRICT PLAYGROUND	DISTRICT	BELCONNEN	BELCONNEN
9. TELOPEA DISTRICT PARK	DISTRICT	BARTON	SOUTH CANBERRA
10. WESTON PARK DISTRICT PLAYGROUND (EAST)	DISTRICT	YARRALUMLA	SOUTH CANBERRA
11. FADDEN PINES DISTRICT PLAYGROUND	DISTRICT	FADDEN	TUGGERANONG
12. BLACK MOUNTAIN PENINSULA DISTRICT PLAYGROUND	DISTRICT	ACTON	NORTH CANBERRA
13. YERRABI DISTRICT PARK PLAYGROUND	DISTRICT	GUNGAHLIN	GUNGAHLIN
14. JOHN KNIGHT MEMORIAL PARK DISTRICT PLAYGROUND	DISTRICT	BELCONNEN	BELCONNEN

The Age of the 4 Playgrounds in Waramanga (a playground has an estimated lifespan of approximately 15yrs)

- Malara Street- Estimated 1985
- Yanda Street- Estimated 1995
- Warrai Place- 2010
- Nemerang Crescent- Estimated 2004

Photographic examples of the state of the playgrounds in Waramanga











Playgrounds in Waramanga are out-dated and either past or at the end of their life-span. Some pieces of equipment (as shown here) are splintered and unsafe. There is no regional playground located anywhere in Weston Creek. Weston Creek is the only region in Canberra without its own regional playground.

On 21 March 2018, Minister Fitzharris agreed that Waramanga's playgrounds may not meet the needs of the community.

