



OPEN SPACE SERVICES

JULY 25, 2020

Playground Audit BLANCHETOWN PLAYGROUND

MID MURRAY COUNCIL



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DISCLAIMER

Whilst care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this report, Open Space Services and its employees, take no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes to information that may occur and disclaim all responsibility and liability to any person in respect to anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon information within this publication.

PREAMBLE

This report assesses the nominated play space against the relevant Australian Standards listed below.

Australian Standard AS 4685

Playground Equipment and Surfacing

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

Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods

Part 2: Particular safety requirements and test methods for swings

Part 3: Particular safety requirements and test methods for slides

Part 4: Particular safety requirements and test methods for cableways

Part 5: Particular safety requirements and test methods for carousels

Part 6: Particular safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment

Part 11: Particular safety requirements and test methods for spatial networks

Australian Standard AS 4422

Playground surfacing

Specifications, requirements and test methods

Marking

Individual play equipment structures are to be permanently marked with a plate clearly identifying the name, address, the equipment reference and year of manufacture and a base level mark for the associated impact attenuating surface. In addition, equipment stating compliance with the Australian Standards must be marked. Equipment not marked by the manufacturer will have an allocated serial number supplied, some equipment will have the same manufacturers number for all equipment, this too will receive an individual serial number for each piece of equipment, this will allow for easier identification

Access, Entrance and Surrounds

Playgrounds should have clear access for pathways and supervision without trip hazards, sharp protrusions or weeds. Rubbish bins, water bubblers and seats should be inspected regularly to ensure working order.

Free Height of Fall

The free height of fall must not exceed 1800mm for Supervised Early Childhood Settings and 3000mm for All Age Settings. The free height of fall is the greatest vertical distance measured from the intended body support of the equipment to the impact area below.

Fall zone

A minimal fall zone of 1500mm is required around equipment that have a height 600mm (with fall heights of more than 600mm above ground level) and between individual items of equipment. An increase in the falling space/impact area for equipment with platforms measuring more than 1500mm above ground level.

Falling spaces for specific equipment items with forced movement such as slides, swings and carousels. The falling space/impact area for equipment with forced movement cannot overlap with other falling spaces/impact areas.

Surfacing

Surfacing to Australian Standards 4685.0:2017 be provided across the falling space/impact area where play equipment provisions are more than 600mm above ground level.

Finish of Equipment

Equipment shall have no protruding nails, bolt threads, projecting wire rope terminations, pointed or sharp ended components. Surfaces are finished smooth with no splintering. All playground equipment should be structurally stable, in good condition and fit for children's play.

Protection Against Falling

Guardrails/barriers to be installed for heights of more than 600mm above ground level of intended use. Continuous handrails are required on each side of access ways and bridges. All items intended for gripping must have a diameter that measures between 16mm-45mm.

Head and Neck Entrapment

Head and neck entrapment refer to any opening at a height of more than 600mm above ground level that would allow a child's body to pass through but not their head. This can result in death or serious permanent injury. AS 4685 states that bound head and neck entrapment (dimensions of 89mm – 230mm), partially bound and V-shaped openings, shearing or moving openings (flexible and rigid parts with openings less than 230mm) must be avoided. It is therefore critical that any head entrapment hazards are eliminated immediately.

Clothing/Hair Entrapment

Toggle/clothing entrapment refers to situations where parts of clothing/hair may become trapped and may lead to serious or fatal injury.

Foot Entrapment

Foot entrapment refers to situations where gaps greater than 30mm present on surfaces inclined up to 45° intended for running/walking, completely bound rigid openings in surfaces for running/climbing.

Finger Entrapment

Finger entrapment refers to any opening that would allow a child's fingers or thumbs to be trapped in a fall situation and can be responsible for traumatic long-term injury. Gaps or openings with dimensions of 8-25mm at 1000mm or more above playing surface level must be eliminated.

Means of Access

Equipment is designed to provide safe ascent or descent. Means of access include steps, stairs, ladders and ramps. The equipment shall be designed to ensure that adults are able to gain access to assist children within the equipment.

Natural Playspaces

Natural play elements incorporated into a playground. Where this cannot be applied, a risk benefit assessment may be required to determine the suitability of such elements. A natural habitat will attract wildlife. Ensure that an inspection of the playspace is conducted before children enter. Regular maintenance to remove debris and weeds is recommended.

Documentation

The playground owner/operator must ensure that a Playground Safety Management System is established to include the recording and archiving of documentation.

Documentation to be archived includes:

- • Policies and procedures
- • Reports e.g. accident/injury
- • Inventory/Equipment register
- • Inspection checklists
- • Works orders
- • Maintenance actions
- • Certification records e.g. equipment, surfacing
- • Manufacturer's warranty details
- • Manufacturer's installation, inspection and maintenance instructions
- • Operating Instructions (if applicable)

Maintenance

Routine maintenance checks to be conducted on a regular basis. These include the inspection of all timber, wear and tear on chains, condition of all play items (cracks, corrosion, graffiti, etc), and insect infestation.

All maintenance schedules should be collected from suppliers of equipment and resources made available to meet the requirements of the maintenance schedule. Regular inspections are required. Timber components will require regular sealing and fixtures will require tightening. It is crucial that regular inspections and prompt repairs be carried out to ensure the safe upkeep of play facilities.

Please Note: The standards are not law and are intended as a guide to safety within playgrounds.

CERTIFICATE OF AUDIT



22 Egret place
Hewett SA 5118

Consulting Services to Mid Murray Council

Date	Services Performed By:	Services Performed For:
July 25, 2020	Open Space Services 22 Egret place Hewett SA 5118	Mid Murray Council Blanchetown Oval Playground

This Certificate of Playground Auditing Summary is issued pursuant to the Australian Standards between **Mid Murray Council** ("Client") and **Open Space Services** ("Contractor"), effective **July 29, 2020**

Note: If there is no serial number, the date plate will be used as the serial number with a sequence number attached if more than one date plate. If no serial number exists, one will be allocated to it.

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| SN: BOP - 001 | SN: BOP - 006 | SN: BOP - 010 |
| SN: BOP - 002 | SN: BOP - 007 | SN: BOP - 011 |
| SN: BOP - 003 | SN: BOP - 008 | SN: BOP - 013 |
| SN: BOP - 004 | SN: BOP - 008 | |
| SN: BOP - 005 | SN: BOP - 009 | |

Date and time of audit

The Services commenced on **July 25, 2020**, and shall continue through **July 25, 2021**. Until complete

Certification with Outstanding's

Certifying Auditor: **Barry Rolton – Open Space Services**

Defects outstanding:**1**..... Defects corrected: Date:

Remedial works outstanding:**3**..... Works completed: Date:

Outstanding remedial and defects completed by (Print Name)





(Signature)

Certified safe to use with all works signed off from 3 months of date of signature:

Certifying Auditor sign off:..... Date:.....

Risk Matrix

		CONSEQUENCE				
		LITTLE OR NO INJURY	MINOR INJURY REQUIRING FIRST AID	MODERATE INJURY CAUSING ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL	SERIOUS INJURY WITH LONG TERM CONSEQUENCES	DEATH OR DISABILITY
LIKELIHOOD	RARE (Highly unlikely event)	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
	UNLIKELY (Conceivable event)	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
	POSSIBLE (Could occur event)	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH
	LIKELY (Almost certain event)	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
	ALMOST CERTAIN (Will occur event)	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	UNACCEPTABLE RISK

	Low is the risk related to all other areas of the inspection, this does not require any works. Low is given rather than “No Risk” as there may be a risk that is unknown such as when the equipment gets hot, it could burn a toddlers skin.
	A medium risk is most likely to apply to top ups of loose fill top ups where the level has dropped as far as 200mm. This risk has the three month completion date and starts from the time of inspection.
	A risk assessment of high does have to be rectified or reach a risk assessment of low. This will usually take no longer than one month from the date of receiving the report.
	Any items or works under this risk assesment needs to be carried out as soon as possible or the item needs to be bunted off if iminant injury is possible.

Priority Rating

There are 4 priority rating

- Low** Minor problem, action should still be carried out in the next 12 months
- Medium** Indicates attention required within 2-3 months
- High** Indicates immediate attention required
- Urgent** Make safe, bunt off asap

General inspection of Play equipment and general area

On arrival, a general inspection is required for both safety and to identify the area and how it is generally utilised. This is also a requirement for risk assessment that was supplied at the time of quotation.

VISUAL INSPECTION		
Play Equipment	Findings	Rating
Debris in the playground that may be hazardous, such as broken glass, needles or animal fouling.	The playground is clean with no areas of debris.	LOW
Loose-fill surfacing levels that are at inadequate levels.	The area beneath the swings and in the high impact areas of the cubby house are very low, in some places there is only 50mm of softfall	MEDIUM
Damage to unitary surfacing	No, synthetic surface within this playground.	LOW
Equipment that is broken or missing as a result of use or vandalism, or is at an age where it is not considered safe to play	The cubby house needs to be removed as it is of old pine posts which have started to splinter, the steps and slide and absents of rails and barriers makes the item unsafe.	HIGH
Graffiti.	No graffiti was seen	LOW
The condition of ancillary items, such as barbecues, tables, rubbish bins, etc.	The Ancillary items are in good condition and don't require any work.	LOW
Dead or damaged overhanging branches that may potentially fall onto the playground.	The Eucalyptus largiflorens that overhang the play area need to be pruned of deadwood and any limbs closer than 2 metres needs removal	MEDIUM
Comments		
Refer to individual assessments for required work.		

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL INSPECTION

A comprehensive annual inspection requires the checking of all items listed in Clause 8.5.4, and 8.5.3., this inspection is intended to determine conformance with the relevant parts of AS 4685 and to establish the overall level of safety of the equipment.

Items to be assessed: (Hazards)	Assessment responses			Assessment review	Rating
	Yes	No	N/A		
SURFACING					
Is the playground free of concrete, asphalt or other non-impact absorbing material under play equipment? (Any hard surface should be removed and replaced with an impact-absorbing surface when fall height is greater than 600mm.)	Yes			All areas that require softfall have softfall.	LOW
Loose-fill material					
Is there adequate drainage to prevent rotting?	Yes			The area is mostly flat but the soil is free draining.	LOW
Does it extend at least 1.5m from all equipment that is less than 1.5m in height, or 2.5m from equipment that is up to 3m in height?	Yes			All equipment has the proper free fall ratings required.	LOW
Are the borders enclosing the loose-fill surfacing secure?	Yes			The borders are in place for the containment of the softfall.	LOW
EQUIPMENT					
Platforms, structures and frames					
Is the maximum height from which the user can fall 3m for general equipment, 2.2m for upper body equipment (e.g. jungle gym) or 1.5m for early childhood center's?	Yes			Highest platform is less than 1500 mm	LOW
Are all structural foundations free of movement, checked for wear and below ground level?		No		The pine rail structure is movable within its frame, the wood shrinks over the years and the holes enlarge to allow this small movement.	LOW
Are all structures free of rot or corrosion and have no missing parts, panels or fittings? (Check that plastic equipment is sound and free of cracks and deterioration from the sun.)	Yes			The cubby usually wont rot as its treated, the swings are also in fair condition but does have tannin from the trees staining it.	LOW
Are all components designed to prevent water entering enclosed areas and free of deterioration?	Yes			The swing is all enclosed, the cubby is not manufactured and	LOW

(Check cap ends, grommets, on bolts or screws.)				does not have enclosed tubing.	
Are all components free of corrosion and bulging and all nails and fixings flush with surface or countersunk?	Yes			The cubby house fixtures are all flush and no threads were protruding.	LOW
Are all bolts and fasteners secure?	Yes			All bolts were secure	LOW
Are all exposed protrusions and sharp edges removed? (Check for protruding nails, rivets and bolts, which may need to be covered or sawn off.)	Yes			No protrusions	LOW
Are platforms and other standing surfaces free of moss, mold and other unhygienic matter that may cause corrosion or slipping?	Yes			The swing frame is covered in tannin from the trees	LOW
Are all guardrails and barriers around decks and platforms secure, free of sharp edges and small enough for a child's grip?	Yes			All platforms are within specification	LOW
Are all equipment surfaces and parts in good order? (Check for splits, splinters, cracks, cuts and open joints. Look at specific pieces of equipment such as swings and slides. Swing seats should be made of a soft material rather than wood. Slides should have a smooth surface and gradual surface at the bottom.)		No		The cubby house has too many defects to remain, the slide, the ladder, no railing and no grab rails and the age contribute to its risk factor of high	HIGH
Are all parts of each piece of equipment such as links, chains and fasteners, secure and not excessively worn? (Check for empty bolt holes, loose pieces of chain and S hooks not tightly closed. Replace pieces if wear is noticeable. Look at specific pieces of equipment such as swings and swinging bridges.)		No		The "S" hooks on the upper swing chains are open enough where the chains could be removed, they will require closing.	MEDIUM
Are all access ramps and entrances to the equipment free of slipping and tripping hazards?		No		The step ramps at the side of the cubby do not have hand rails.	MEDIUM
Are all access and entrance points to the playground and equipment free of exposed protrusions and sharp edges?	Yes			All entry and access are free of any trip or fall components.	LOW

Are all entrapment points eliminated? (Check for any narrow openings, "V" shaped gaps or sharp angles hooks or protrusions, which could trap a child's head or limb.)	Yes			The barrier rails being affixed above the top pine rail is a partial bound entrapment point	HIGH
Are all steps, ladders, guardrails and nets large enough to let a child get their body right through?		No		The cubby house has two areas of ladder point, both are not to specification.	HIGH
Are slides free from toggle hang points where clothing and hats can get caught up in them?		No		The slide has an area which was tested as it did fowl up near the attachment to the platform.	MEDIUM
Is there enough space between equipment so that children can move freely between areas without bumping or running into each other?	Yes			Once the cubby house is removed there will only be the swings stand alone.	LOW
Is the playground set out to allow for unobstructed supervision?	Yes			The playground items are can be seen from observation areas close to the play equipment.	LOW
Is the playground environment in good condition and free of rubbish? (Check playing fields and concrete areas.)	Yes			The site is clean and tidy with very low amounts of rubbish.	LOW
Comments					

Cubby Slide

SN: BOP - 001



OPERATIONAL INSPECTION

OPERATIONAL INSPECTION		
Play Equipment	Findings	Rating
Excessive wear of moving parts (including chain links).	No moving parts	LOW
Any protrusions and sharp edges.	No sharp edges or protrusions were found.	LOW
Are all bolts and fasteners secure?	All bolts or fasteners were secure.	LOW
Are there any entrapments, hang points or catch points on any of the equipment?	The entrapment points are partially bound where the slats are higher than the top rail.	MEDIUM
The structural adequacy and/or stability of all playground equipment including ancillary items. NOTE: Equipment that relies on a single anchor or attachment point should be carefully inspected.	The structural stability is not acceptable	MEDIUM
Excessive corrosion, particularly within structural members.	No corrosion was found on the equipment.	LOW
Impact and attenuating edges of swing seats, pommels and other moving equipment that can impact users.	All edges were as designed with no areas of concern.	LOW
Foundations for exposed concrete, rot and corrosion.	No exposed concrete was found and no base corrosion was identified.	LOW
Trees for potential hazards. NOTE: This may require the skills and competencies of a professional arborist.	The Eucalyptus largiflorens that overhang the play area need to be pruned of deadwood and any limbs closer than 2 metres needs removal	LOW
Are chain links or gap areas greater than 12mm or less than 8.6mm	No chains on this piece of equipment.	LOW
Are all structural attachments affixed tightly to their respective anchor points and attachment points sound with no wear or pull out from fixture points?	The equipment is a series of rigid structure with no moving parts.	LOW

Comments

This old structure is a permapine structure with Copper Chrome Arsenic based wood, the ladder on the side does not have any handrails for stabilizing yourself to get up the top platform. Because it is greater than 600 from ground level the area of climb needs to have proper handrails grips so they can be used for younger children to steady themselves as a climb up the structure. The slide has a toggle entrapment due to the size of the width of the planks and the gap which allows the toggle to be caught within the gap however this does not cause the toggle to become wedged within that as you slide down the toggle does dislodge on both sides. This structure should not be used and I would recommend that it is removed as soon as possible.



Swing Set

SN: BOP - 002



OPERATIONAL INSPECTION

OPERATIONAL INSPECTION		
Play Equipment	Findings	Rating
Excessive wear of moving parts (including chain links).	There were no excessive wear on moving parts	LOW
Any protrusions and sharp edges.	No sharp edges or protrusions were found.	LOW
Are there any entrapments, hang points or catch points on any of the equipment?	No hang points or entrapment was found.	LOW
The structural adequacy and/or stability of all playground equipment including ancillary items. NOTE: Equipment that relies on a single anchor or attachment point should be carefully inspected.	All uprights were sound and had no movements.	LOW
Excessive corrosion, particularly within structural members.	No corrosion was found in the uprights.	LOW
Impact and attenuating edges of swing seats, pommels and other moving equipment that can impact users.	All edges were as designed with no areas of concern.	LOW
Foundations for exposed concrete, rot and corrosion.	No exposed concrete was found and no base corrosion was identified.	LOW
Trees for potential hazards. NOTE: This may require the skills and competencies of a professional arborist.	The Eucalyptus largiflorens that overhang the play area need to be pruned of deadwood and any limbs closer than 2 metres needs removal	LOW
Are chain links or gap areas greater than 12mm or less than 8.6mm and are the S hooks closed	The S hooks need to be closed to point.	MEDIUM
Are all structural attachments affixed tightly to their respective anchor points and attachment points sound with no wear or pull out from fixture points	The four uprights are stable with no movements.	LOW
Comments		

The swings are still in good condition the rubber has been replaced on the baby swing and the other swing is not that old. the swing seats are too low and this is why the area beneath the swing has been kicked out, raising the seats will reduce this significantly. The “S” hooks on the top will also require further clamping as they are almost at the stage where they can be lifted off the top hanger. Softfall will need to be replaced beneath the swings. The overall condition of the swings is good but has tannin staining from the *Eucalyptus largiflorens* that has grown over top of it.



BBQ Shade Structure

SN: BOP – 003

SN: BOP - 004

SN: BOP - 005



OPERATIONAL INSPECTION

OPERATIONAL INSPECTION		
Play Equipment	Findings	Rating
Any protrusions and sharp edges.	No sharp edges or protrusions were found.	LOW
Are there any entrapments, hang points or catch points on any of the equipment?	No hang points or entrapment was found.	LOW
Excessive corrosion, particularly within structural members.	All items are new and have no corrosion.	LOW
Impact and attenuating edges of swing seats, pommels and other moving equipment that can impact users.	All edges were as designed with no areas of concern.	LOW
Trees for potential hazards. NOTE: This may require the skills and competencies of a professional arborist.	No trees within the vicinity of this structure.	LOW
Are all structural attachments affixed tightly to their respective anchor points and attachment points sound with no wear or pull out from fixture points.	All structural attachments are sound with no lose fasteners	LOW

Comments

This shade structure is only newly installed along with the barbecue and the seat and table, the barbecue is in good condition and is fixed solid to the concrete.



SN: BOP – 003
 SN: BOP – 004
 SN: BOP – 005

Ancillary Items

SN: BOP - 006

SN: BOP - 007

SN: BOP - 008

SN: BOP - 009

SN: BOP - 010

SN: BOP - 011

SN: BOP - 012



This bench seat and table is secure both on the ground and in the slats to the frame



This bench seat and table is secure both on the ground and in the slats to the frame



This seat is not affixed to a slab but is secure in its own weight, all the slats are secure to the frame and is a stable item with no risk or hazards.



SN: BOP – 008

The power box is also a new install for the bbq and shade structure, the box was locked and secure with no graffiti or damage.



SN: BOP – 009

The RV dump point and surrounding are clean and tidy, the lid is functional and the hose and tap are all in good working order.



SN: BOP – 010

The new toilet block is fully functional with all operating items working as they should, the toilets were clean and free of graffiti.



SN: BOP – 011

The old toilets were locked and looks to have been decommissioned, being replaced by the new toilet block.



COMPLETION CRITERIA

The twelve-monthly audit undertaken by Open Space Services provide the following summary in regards to condition of the Play Equipment and summary of outstanding defects.

Serial Number of Play Equipment: **BOP - 001 (Cubby House)**

- Remove from the playground. **(Defect)**

Serial Number of Play Equipment: **BOP - 002 (Swings)**

- The "S" hooks need to be pressed to stop removal. **(Remedial)**
- Lift swings to 500mm above mulch at the lowest point of swing **(Remedial)**
- Top up sofffall to a depth of 300mm **(Remedial)**

Serial Number of Play Equipment: **MOC – 003 (Shade Structure)**

- No work Required

Serial Number of Play Equipment: **MOC – 004 (BBQ)**

- No work Required

Serial Number of Play Equipment: **MOC – 005 (Bench seats and Table)**

- No work Required

Serial Number of Play Equipment: **MOC – 006 (Bench seats and Table)**

- No work Required

Serial Number of Play Equipment: **MOC – 007 (Bench seats and Table)**

- No work Required

Serial Number of Play Equipment: **MOC – 008 (Bench seats and Table)**

- No work Required

Serial Number of Play Equipment: **MOC – 009 (Power Box)**

- No work Required

Serial Number of Play Equipment: **MOC – 010 (RV Dump Point)**

- No work Required

Serial Number of Play Equipment: **MOC – 011 (Toilets)**

- No work Required

Serial Number of Play Equipment: **MOC – 012 (Old Toilets)**

- No work Required

Softfall:

Softfall will require top up under the swings for now, if the cubby house is removed, no top up is needed for that area.