



# Council Policy

## Community Infrastructure Provision



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## Policy scope

This policy establishes consistent guidelines for the provision, renewal, and development of community infrastructure across land owned or managed by the City of Fremantle (City). It ensures equitable access to functional and inclusive public infrastructure that supports healthy, active, and connected communities.

Operational detail, including design guidance and provision levels by asset type, is set out in the supporting Community Infrastructure Provision Guidelines administered by the Chief Executive Officer.

This policy applies to the following infrastructure types;

- **Active reserves and sporting infrastructure** – such as changerooms, clubrooms, and other sporting facilities that enable sporting clubs to operate and promote active community engagement.
- **Community facilities** – including multi-purpose centres, community halls, leased spaces, and facilities that support the delivery of services and social activities.
- **Stand-alone public toilet facilities** – universally accessible amenities located in public spaces, independent of other City-owned buildings.
- **Coastal amenities** – including showers, changerooms, and public toilet facilities designed to support both passive and active recreational use of coastal areas.
- **Play** – playgrounds and play elements that provide opportunities for informal recreation, and community connection and include multi-age use, accessibility, shade and amenity.

## Policy statement

### 1. Strategic Alignment

- 1.1 This Policy supports the City's Strategic Community Plan and directly complements the Community Sport and Recreation Plan and the Public Open Space Strategy by applying consistent provision guidelines across facility and reserve hierarchies.
- 1.2 The Policy guides infrastructure decisions ensuring they are evidence-driven and responsive to the diverse needs of Fremantle's communities.
- 1.3 The Policy advances the City's commitment to a future-proofed, accessible asset base by ensuring facilities remain functional and fit-for-purpose. It promotes equitable access, flexible and responsive design, and community health and wellbeing as planning outcomes.



## **2. Provision Principles**

Decisions about community infrastructure will be guided by the following principles:

### **2.1 Needs-based Planning**

Infrastructure will be planned and delivered based on demonstrated community need, supported by needs assessments, feasibility studies, and alignment with the City's strategic objectives. Resources will be prioritised in areas where they provide the greatest community benefit, ensuring investment aligns with local priorities and demand.

### **2.2 Responsible Provision**

Decisions will be evidence-based and informed by meaningful community and key stakeholder engagement. Core elements such as shade, access to water, and public toilets will be included as appropriate to the provision level and aligned with the City's financial capacity.

### **2.3 Health and Wellbeing**

Infrastructure will support opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, and engagement with nature, all of which contribute to the overall quality of life for residents.

### **2.4 Equitable Access**

All residents, regardless of location or background, should have access to high-quality and well-maintained community infrastructure, ensuring a fair distribution of resources across the City's diverse neighbourhoods.

### **2.5 Fit-for-Purpose and Best Practice Standards**

All new infrastructure is to be fit for purpose, built to appropriate infrastructure standards, and adhere to industry best practices wherever possible. This includes ensuring that all developments and upgrades meet current design, safety, and sustainability standards to provide a lasting benefit to the community.

### **2.6 Flexibility and Multipurpose**

Infrastructure will be designed to accommodate changing needs over time. Multi-use facilities and hubs that support shared usage are preferred over single-purpose spaces, ensuring that these resources remain adaptable and sustainable in the long term.

### **2.7 Sustainability**

The City is committed to delivering community infrastructure that is environmentally responsible, financially sustainable, and socially beneficial across the full asset lifecycle. Sustainable infrastructure balances environmental, economic, social and governance outcomes to support thriving communities now and into the future.



Sustainability considerations must be embedded at the planning, design, delivery, operation and renewal stages of all projects.

### 3. Community Infrastructure Provision Guidelines

- 3.1 Detailed implementation guidance, including provision levels for each infrastructure type, is contained within the Community Infrastructure Provision Guidelines administered by the Chief Executive Officer.

### 4. Provision Framework

- 4.1 The City will apply a three-tiered Provision Framework to all community infrastructure decisions ensuring they are strategic, consistent, and equitable.
- 4.2 Every reserve and facility under City ownership or management will be assigned a Provision Level – Basic, Standard or Extended – based on its function, catchment and service role. The provision level is recorded in the reserve register.
- 4.3 The assigned Provision Level defines the maximum scope of City-funded infrastructure and will inform investment, renewal and maintenance decisions.
- 4.4 Where a proposal seeks infrastructure beyond the assigned provision level, it will require demonstrated community need, a supporting business case, identified funding and Council approval.
- 4.5 The City will not approve non-standard infrastructure that creates an unreasonable ongoing financial liability for the City.

Provision Level	Intended Use	Typical Application	Infrastructure Examples
<b>Basic</b>	Low-frequency, informal community use; essential functionality and safety	Smaller-scale assets, small Neighbourhood nodes	Informal rest areas, basic toilets, small play elements
<b>Standard</b>	Organised activities, shared use, and consistent levels of amenity	Active reserves, community halls, local sporting facilities	Changerooms, accessible toilets, shade structures, standard playgrounds
<b>Extended</b>	High-demand, broad catchment use; multi-purpose hub	District and regional facilities, major sporting and community centres	Expanded changerooms, multi-purpose rooms, enhanced accessibility, destination



			playgrounds and specialist play like skate and pump tracks
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## 5. Reserve Register

- 5.1 The City will maintain a Reserve Register as a centralised record of all reserves under City ownership or management. The Register will capture each reserve’s classification, hierarchy, and assigned provision level, serving as the primary planning reference for community infrastructure decisions across the City’s open space network.
- 5.2 The Register will be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect changing usage patterns, community needs, and strategic priorities. Updates may include changes to reserve classifications, hierarchy adjustments, or revisions to assigned provision levels, informed by usage data, community engagement and service reviews.
- 5.3 The Reserve Register is an internal document with restricted access.

## Definitions and abbreviations

**Active Reserve:** A City-owned or managed public open space sporting reserve which is designated for organised sport or other organised physical activity.

**Community Infrastructure:** Public buildings and spaces to accommodate activities that help communities function effectively, contributing to their wellbeing and meeting their social needs.

**Facility Hierarchy:** The classification of facilities or reserves according to their function, catchment, and service role, as defined in the *Community Sporting Reserve Plan* and the *Public Open Space Strategy*. Hierarchy categories may include State, Regional, District, Neighbourhood, Local, and Training levels, depending on facility type.

**Non-Standard:** Infrastructure components or enhancements that exceed the assigned provision level, including but not limited to specialised fit-outs, premium finishes, additional rooms, or technology features. These are subject to Council approval.

**Provision Level:** The level of service, quality, and functionality that an asset or place is expected to deliver, used to guide planning, design, renewal, and investment decisions. Provision Level describe what maximum scope of what is to be provided e.g., access, amenity, capacity, inclusivity.

**Recreation Spaces:** Are public open areas designed for informal, flexible use casual play, walking, sitting, socialising, and spontaneous gathering. Unlike Sport Spaces (structured and scheduled) or Nature Spaces (ecological focus), their main role is recreation, social interaction, and informal activity.



**Renewal:** The replacement or significant refurbishment of existing infrastructure to maintain its original function and service level.

**Response to Place:** Community infrastructure will be designed to reflect its context, scale, and size, and will be carefully integrated into its surroundings. Projects will respond to Fremantle’s unique character, cultural heritage and local environment.

**Standard:** The baseline level of facility provision that enables core activities to be delivered and meets minimum design and functional requirements, as determined by the City.

**Upgrade:** Improvements made to existing infrastructure to increase its capacity, function, or quality beyond the original standard.

## Supporting Documents

- Strategic Community Plan
- Disability Access & Inclusion Plan
- Community Sporting Reserve Plan 2024 - 2034
- Public Open Space Strategy 2024 – 2034
- Community Infrastructure Provision Guidelines

Responsibility and review information	
<b>Responsible officer:</b>	Manager Community Development
<b>Document adoption/approval details</b>	25 March 2026 – Ordinary Meeting of Council - C2603-20
<b>Document amendment details</b>	
<b>Next review date</b>	25 March 2030