

From: [Allie Dunn](#)
To: Damien.Puddle@icc.govt.nz
Subject: Response to Request for Information under LGOIMA – Playground Surfacing Data
Date: Thursday, 23 July 2026 9:34:00 am
Attachments: [LGOIMA - Playground Surfaces.xlsx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Kia ora

I am writing in response to your official information request dated 13 July 2026 regarding playground surfacing data.

The information you have requested is attached.

Ngā mihi



Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services | Deputy Electoral Officer

Democracy Services | Tararua District Council

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From: Allie Dunn

Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 1:54 pm

To: 'Damien.Puddle@icc.govt.nz' <Damien.Puddle@icc.govt.nz>

Subject: CM: Acknowledgement: Request for Information under LGOIMA – Playground Surfacing Data

Kia ora

This email is to acknowledge receipt of your request for information, regarding playground surfacing data.

We will endeavour to respond to your request as soon as possible and in any event no later than 10 August 2026, being 20 working days after the day your request was received. If we are unable to respond to your request by then, we will notify you of an extension of that timeframe.

As part of our commitment to openness and accountability, we are now proactively publishing copies of requests for information and the responses provided to these requests, on our website. In doing so, we will ensure we comply with the provisions of the Privacy Act 2020 and redact any personal / identifying information from any response published.

If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me.

Ngā mihi



Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services | Deputy Electoral Officer

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From: Damien Puddle <Damien.Puddle@icc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 11:17 am

Subject: Request for Information under LGOIMA – Playground Surfacing Data

EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT: Caution advised. This message is from an external sender. Verify the sender's identity and use caution with attachments and links.

Kia ora,

My name is Dr Damien Puddle, and I am the Play Advocate at Invercargill City Council. I am undertaking a cost–benefit analysis of playground surfacing across New Zealand to understand the scale of surfacing assets and compare whole-of-life costs across surface types in relation to injury prevention.

Please treat this as a request for official information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

I would appreciate receiving the following information regarding playgrounds under your council's management:

- Total number of playgrounds managed by your council
- Excluding pump tracks, skate parks, BMX facilities, scooter tracks, fitness stations, and similar non-playground assets, but can include parkour parks.
- Total area (m²) of playground surfacing, aggregated by surface type (i.e. area of each surface type such as X m² wet-pour, X m² wood chip, X m² tiles, etc.)

Definition: For the purpose of this request, a playground is defined as a space containing fixed play equipment designed primarily for children.

Clarification: Surface area refers to the area of playground surfacing associated with play equipment. This may include fall zones and adjacent surfaced areas. Precise fall-zone measurement is not required. Estimates are acceptable where exact measurements are not available (these should be identified accordingly).

Please categorise surfacing as:

- Wet-pour rubber
- Rubber tiles
- Artificial turf
- Wood chip/bark (playground compliant, not arborist mulch)
- Pea gravel
- Sand (when used as a fall surface, not as a sand play feature)
- Other (please specify)

Data format: Data can be supplied in any format that is convenient. Existing summaries or reports are welcome. If site-level data is readily available, it is welcome but not required.

Use of information: The information will be used for aggregated analysis of playground surfacing assets and included in a published journal article. Individual councils will not be identified in any public reporting without prior permission.

I would appreciate a response within 20 working days in line with LGOIMA requirements.

Thank you for your time and assistance. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss the request or clarify any aspect of the project.

Kind regards,



Dr Damien Puddle

Local Play Advocate

Damien.Puddle@icc.govt.nz

Phone: 032111777 • [REDACTED]

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location	playground	surface type	(m ²) of playground surfacing (approx)	area	surface boundry
	<i>Baines Domain Playground</i>	No Impact attenuation surfacing			
Woodville	<i>Ballance Playground</i>	Woodchip/ bark	112m2	Loose fill under slide and swings	
Pongaroa	<i>Coast Road Playground</i>	Wood chip/bark	98m2	Loose fill under play tower	
Dannevirke Eketahuna Eketahuna	<i>Coronation Park Play Fort Eketahuna Domain Fort Eketahuna Playground</i>	Wood chip/bark No Impact attenuation surfacing No Impact attenuation surfacing	102m2	Loose fill under play tower	
Woodville	<i>Fountain Square Playground</i>	Poured Rubber/ rubber tiles and artificial turf	Swings Artificial turf - 22.75m2 approx Pirate Tower 110m2 Combination Tower - tiles 127m2 Seasaw - Poured rubber - 15m2 Rocker - poured rubber -21m2 Swings -Tiles 48.75m2	Tiles under swing- poured rubber under rocker, flush carousel- tiles under carousel- piured rubber under seesaw- tiles under combination towers - artificial turf under swings, priate tower and surf rockers	
Pahiatua	<i>Harvard Park Adventure Playground</i>	Wood chip/bark / rubber tiles	Two bay Swing - 11.84m2 Rocker - 5m2 Carousel - 11m2 Roktopus - 22.15m2 Combination Tower and Flying Fox- approx 340m2 Loose fill under carriage swing 132m2 Loose fill surfacing sothern end - 295m2 Loose fill surfacing under rocker, coroseul rocktopus and swings- 432m2	Rubber Surfacing under rokotopus, carousel, rocker and two bay swing - loose fill surfacing on northern end	
Norsewood	<i>Norsewood Waterwheel Park</i>	wood chip/bark	111m2	Loose fill surfacing under play equipment	
Ormondville	<i>Ormondville Playground</i>	wood chip/ bark	38m2	Loose fill under the carousel	
Pongaroa	<i>Pongaroa Community Hall Playground</i>	woodchip / bark	98m2	Loose fill surfacing under play equipment	
Dannevirke	<i>Upper Domain Playground</i>	synthetic impact attenuation surfacing woodchip/bark	279 m2 - synthtic surfacing 480m2 loose fill under play equipment 70m2 loose fill under pirate climbing structure	synthetic surfacing under ship play equipment - loose fill under playground equipment and Pirate climbing structure	