

# Public spaces in NSW

## Principles for you to follow

Easy Read version



Photo: Destination NSW

# How to use this document



The NSW Government wrote this document.

When you see the word 'we', it means the NSW Government.



We wrote this document in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

## **Bold**

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

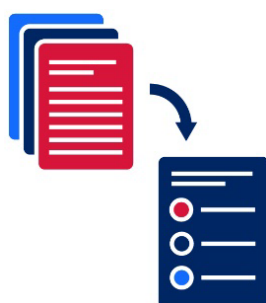
## Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 36.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

[www.transport.nsw.gov.au/charter](http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/charter)



You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.



You can copy the information and share it with people.



But you can't use the information to make money.

And you must tell people that it came from Transport for NSW.



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# Statement of Country



Aboriginal peoples are the first and Traditional Custodians of Australia.



This means Aboriginal peoples always look after Country, like part of the family.



Australia always was and always will be Aboriginal land.



Country connects us to everything around us in all spaces and places.



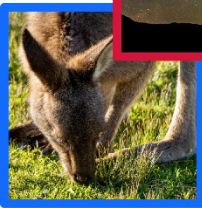
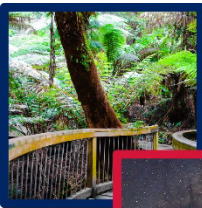
Country is at the centre of all Aboriginal **culture**.



Culture is:

- a way of life
- your beliefs.

Culture influences how you think, act and feel.



Country includes everything around us, such as:

- earth, water and air
- sun and moon
- plants and animals.



Country includes Dreaming, ceremony and language.



Country impacts how we feel in places.



Country informs who we are as people, our identity.



When we connect with Country, we celebrate the oldest continuous living culture on Earth, including:

- shared history
- truth
- stories.



When we let Country guide our public spaces, everyone can belong and use them.



Everyone must care for Country because we all:



- live with Country



- work and learn with Country



- play with Country.

# What is this document about?



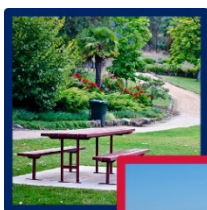
Public spaces are for everyone.

That's why it is important NSW public spaces are good **quality** – they work well.



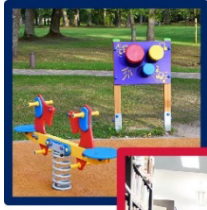
They should also be **inclusive**, safe and respect Country.

When something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



When we say public spaces, we mean open spaces like:

- parks
- beaches
- waterways.



When we say public spaces, we also mean:

- playgrounds
- buildings, like libraries and sport centres
- streets and footpaths.

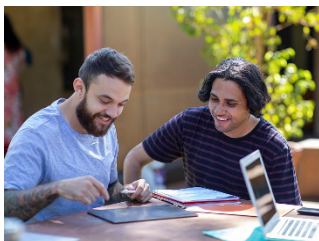
Our public spaces affect how we:



- live and connect



- move and travel



- work and learn.



Our public spaces influence how we connect with:



- other people



- the environment.

When people use our public spaces, they are more likely to:



- take care of it



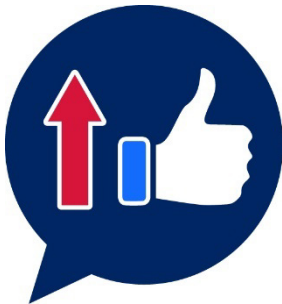
- connect and belong.

## Why do we have this document?



We want to support everyone in NSW to find and use good quality public spaces.

We asked the community:



- how to make our public spaces better



- what they loved about our public spaces.

This document will support organisations and people that:



- design and plan public spaces



- build public spaces



- take care of public spaces.

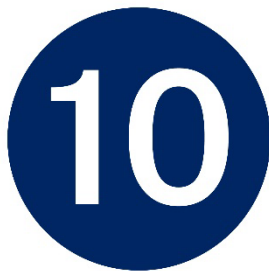


## Our principles



Our **principles** are ideas we:

- believe in
- think are important.



We have 10 principles to support inclusive public spaces.



These principles will support people who:

- design and plan public spaces
- build and look after public spaces.



We talk more about our principles on the following pages.

# 1. Open and welcoming



Public spaces should be inclusive for everyone.



They should also be **accessible**.

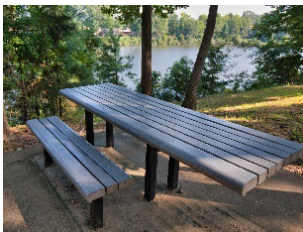


When something is accessible, everyone can use it.

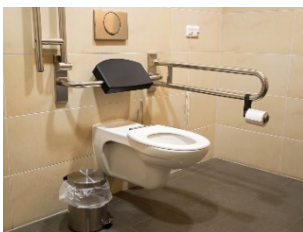
This could be having accessible:



- ramps



- seats



- toilets



- playgrounds.

Accessible public spaces should also be:



- close to public transport, like a bus stop

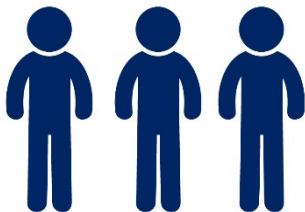


- easy to walk or ride to.



Public spaces should have lots of free things for people to:

- engage with
- do.



Each public space might not meet every person's needs.



So all public places should work well together.



## 2. Focusing on the community



Public spaces can help bring people and nature together.



Public spaces should support how we:

- connect with people in the community
- make our relationships in the community stronger.



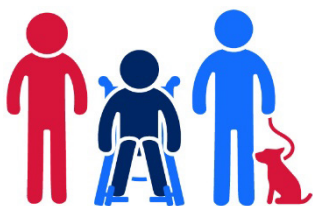
Public spaces should make people feel:

- included
- safe to be who they are.



Communities are experts on what makes their public spaces:

- **diverse**
- inclusive.



When something is diverse, it includes lots of different people and experiences.

We should include different communities when we:



- plan and design public spaces



- build public spaces.

This will help the community to:



- feel proud



- feel that they belong



- connect to the place.

### 3. Culture and being creative



All public spaces are on Country.



Country holds lots of:

- story
- memory
- knowledge.



This helps us connect to Country and culture in public spaces.



It's important that Aboriginal peoples can access and use public places so they can connect to:

- Country
- culture
- lands.



If we are honest about our history,  
public spaces can also offer healing.



Culture can bring people together.

It can also support people to share stories  
and experiences.

This can build communities.



We should support ways for people to  
express their:

- culture in public spaces
- creativity in public spaces.

## 4. Local identity



When public spaces are diverse, they:

- are different in their own way
- connect people from diverse cultures.



Public spaces can have lots of history.

This helps make them special.

The history of public spaces can be:



- physical, like the buildings or environment in the public space



- other things, like the true histories and memories of that public space.





Country is diverse, so public spaces are all different.

Public spaces should respect local Aboriginal:



- stories
- languages
- place names
- true histories
- memories.



Our public spaces should have spaces to:

- embrace Aboriginal culture
- share Aboriginal stories.



We should look after what makes our public spaces special.

This will help to protect them in the future.

We can support local artists to:



- work with the community



- share local stories.

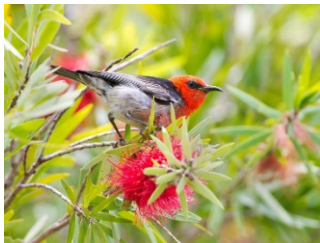
## 5. Respecting our natural environment

When we plan and design public spaces, we need to protect our:



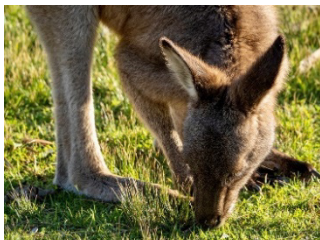
- **native** and wild animals
- native plants.

Native animals and plants are from our part of Australia.



We should plant more native plants in our public spaces.

This will help our native and wild animals.



Our native and wild animals need public spaces to:

- move and eat
- sleep and live.

Our public spaces can also be places for people to:



- learn how to become a custodian of Country
- care for the health of Country
- support our natural environment.



Many public spaces connect parts of our natural environment together.



We can use public spaces to help protect the environment.



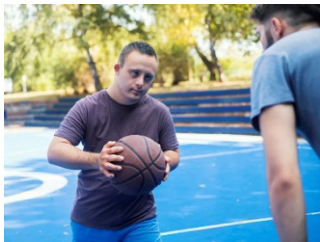
We can also make public spaces that people can use when there's an emergency, like a fire or flood.

## 6. Being healthy and active



Public spaces are important for making communities that:

- are healthy
- last a long time.



Good public spaces can support people to:

- easily move around
- do activities, like sports and riding bikes.



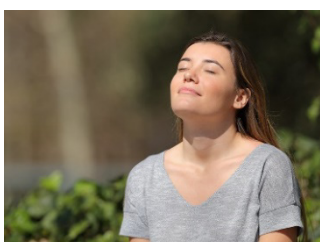
This can help people:

- be healthy
- feel good.



We should have more ways for people to:

- find and use parks
- connect with these spaces.



This can help people feel less stress and worry.  
It can also help their focus and wellbeing.



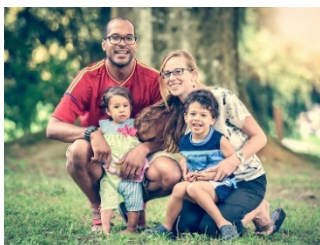


Public spaces can support people to move around and do activities more if they are:

- safe
- connected to other public spaces
- good quality.



Good quality public spaces can help children grow.



When we make public spaces, we should think about what:

- children need
- their families or carers need.



When we include our community to plan public spaces, they might take part in more healthy activities.

## 7. Local business and economy



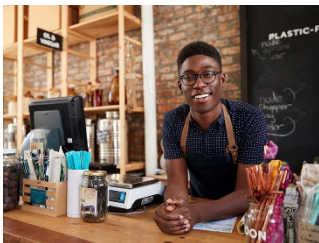
Public spaces support our local:

- businesses
- **economy.**



Our economy is the way NSW makes and spends money.

This can include:



- cafés



- outdoor markets



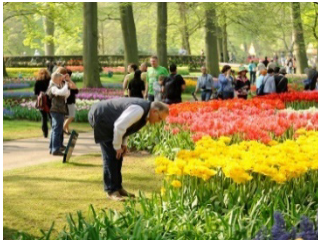
- places people play live music.



Public spaces should have lots of different activities and fun things to do:

- during the day
- at night.

This will help different groups of people:



- go to that space
- connect with that space
- be interested in that space.



And if we make our public spaces safe and welcoming at night, it can help our economy.

Public spaces can also support local businesses if there are places for people to:



- sit and rest



- feel like part of the community.

## 8. Safety



When we feel safe in public spaces, it changes the way we find and use public spaces.

Public spaces are safer when they:

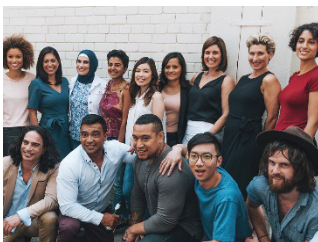


- are inclusive
- support diversity
- make people feel they belong.



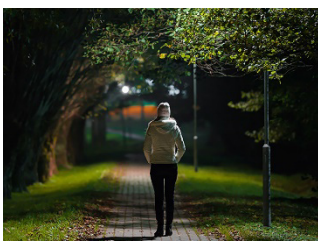
Public spaces are safer when people:

- use them a lot
- can see and connect with other people.



Public spaces should support diverse people of all:

- ages
- backgrounds and cultures.



Public spaces should have better lights at night.



When we make public spaces, we should:

- encourage positive interactions with each other
- think about ways to stop crime.



We should also find out if there are any risks to the community.



We should talk to diverse groups of people to understand:

- how they find and use public spaces
- what safety means for them.



We should also talk with Aboriginal peoples to make sure our public spaces are:

- inclusive
- safe
- welcoming.

## 9. Well designed

When we design and plan public spaces, we should think about:



- who will use them



- how people will interact with them.



We should also think about Country when we plan and design public spaces.



Public spaces should have things that:



- can be used in different ways
- can support lots of different needs.

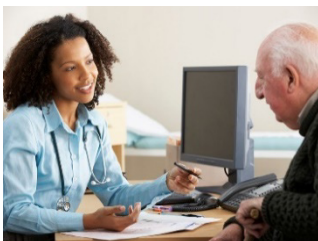


For example, an accessible toilet in a park.

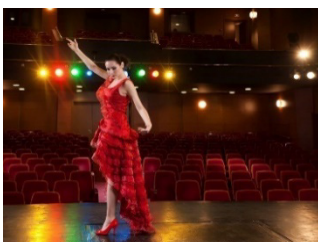
Public spaces should also work with other places people go:



- to learn



- for health care



- to connect with diverse cultures.

## 10. Looking after our public spaces



All public spaces need to be looked after so:

- they work well
- people use and care for them.

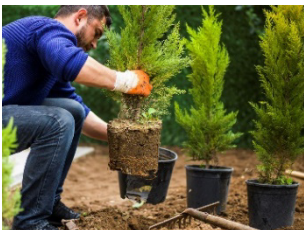
When we look after our public spaces, we want them to:



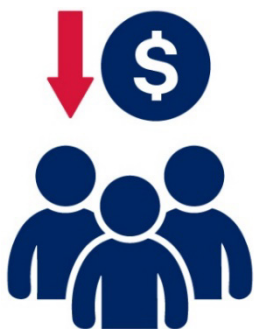
- feel welcoming



- be clean.



We should repair things when we need to.



When we plan public spaces, we should think about how we can:

- keep the cost of looking after them low in the future
- involve the community.

Aboriginal peoples are custodians of the land and care deeply for:



- looking after the land



- the health and wellbeing of Country.

When we look after public places, we should:



- listen to Aboriginal voices as part of the planning and design process



- respect their world views as the custodians of the land.

# Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



## **Accessible**

When something is accessible, everyone can use it.

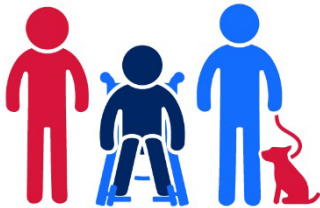
## **Culture**



Culture is:

- a way of life
- your beliefs.

Culture influences how you think, act and feel.



## **Diverse**

When something is diverse, it includes lots of different people and experiences.



## **Economy**

Our economy is the way NSW makes and spends money.



## **Inclusive**

When something is inclusive, everyone can take part.



## **Native**

Native animals and plants are from our part of Australia.



## **Principles**

Our principles are ideas we:

- believe in
- think are important.



## **Quality**

When public spaces are good quality, they work well.

## Contact us



You can contact us if you'd like more information.



You can send us an email.

[PublicSpace@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:PublicSpace@planning.nsw.gov.au)



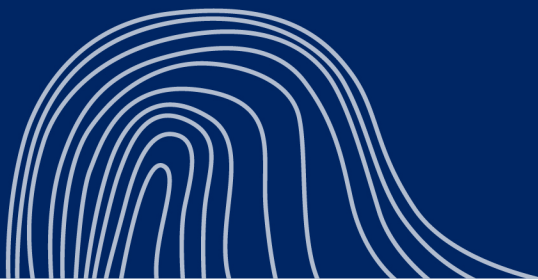
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