

# Helping play come naturally

CHILDREN in the City of Stirling can expect to live near some of the best playgrounds in Perth after the City this month amended its playground policy.

Stirling council recently voted to amend the policy and formalise its support of natural play spaces.

The amended policy states "natural play elements will be incorporated in playground designs where possible".

It states natural play spaces provide children with "opportunities to enhance exploration, imagination and creativity".

Councillor Sharon Cooke called for the policy review earlier this year.

The child health nurse said she was excited the City was leading the push for more natural play spaces.

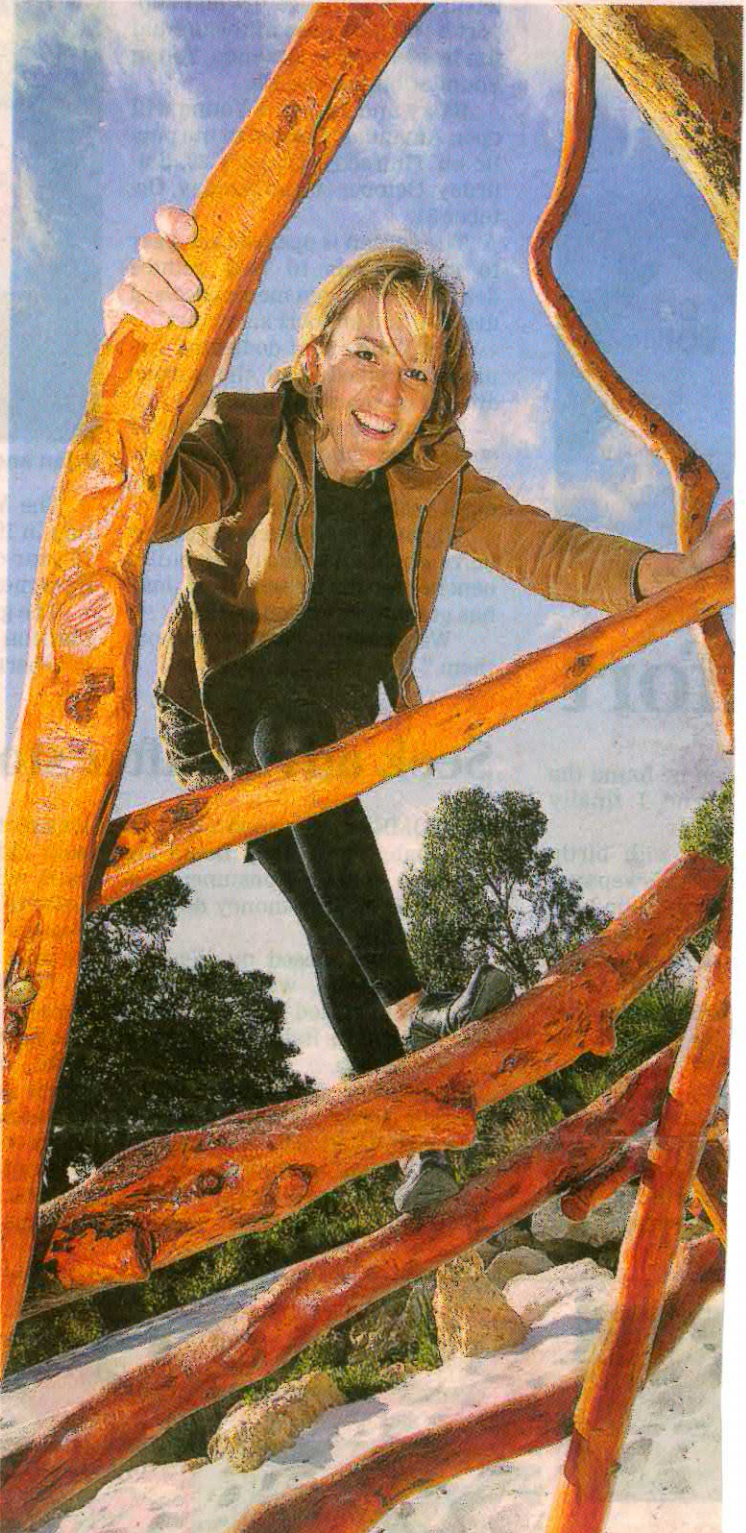
"Now that Stirling has taken the lead, I expect it will have a ripple effect through other local governments.

"Children need more unstructured play in the outdoors, with time to wonder at nature and use their creativity.

"Our children have some great adventures with the neighbours up a tree or making hideouts in their secret garden.

Cr Cooke said both Kidsafe WA and the Department of Sport and Recreation supported the concept.

The mother-of-three said City officers would install two more natural play spaces in Karrinyup and Yokine.



Cr Sharon Cooke could not resist a little adventure on encountering one of the City's playgrounds.

Picture: Dominique Menegaldo

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