SHADE POLICY

Head of Power

Local Government Act 2009

Objective

To establish Council’s policy position on shading of play equipment and allied infrastructure within parks, reserves and public open space.

Definitions/Application

Definitions

Open space refers to all land owned and/or managed by Council that is zoned Park and Recreation or Conservation and is available for public access. Typically open space includes parks, gardens, trails, reserves, foreshores, waterways, sportsgrounds and conservation reserves. It does not include vacant council land zoned for other purposes.

Park is any open space that contributes to community wellbeing principally through aesthetic qualities and opportunities for passive recreation within an urban or future urban setting.

Council administered facility is any open space, park or reserve as defined within this policy.

Reserve is open space that contributes to community wellbeing principally through environmental attributes and provides opportunities for nature-based recreation.

Application

This policy applies to all public open spaces maintained by Council.

Policy Statement

1. Policy

In relation to sun protection within its parks, reserves and open space, it is Council’s preference that natural shade options, trees and associated vegetation are used to provide shading of play equipment and allied infrastructure. The co-location of infrastructure with existing vegetation and/or supplementary tree planting is the preferred outcome. Where conditions allow, natural shade (trees) will be utilised for all new infrastructure/development projects.

Situations may arise where existing and supplementary planting will not provide effective shade for the facility in the short to medium timeframe. In these situations, consideration may be given to the provision of built shade solutions. In such circumstances, built shade solutions will be considered as an interim measure only until such time that the natural shade becomes effective, at which time the built shade structure will be removed.

Council considers built shade solutions as the least desirable shade outcome. In specific situations, built shade solutions may provide an appropriate outcome. Built shade solutions are to be considered on an individual, site specific basis and must be appropriate for the individual space, must consider whole of life costs, public safety and incorporate environmentally sustainable materials and design.

Moreton Bay Regional Council considers that it is unrealistic to provide 100% shade coverage to all open space uses at all times.
2. Sun Protection
Residents and visitors need to be aware of the potential dangers of exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun and to take appropriate sun protection measures. Council supports the Cancer Council campaign that recommends a combination of sun protection measures:

- Wear sun-protective clothing;
- Apply broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen;
- Wear a broad brimmed hat;
- Seek shade;
- Wear sunglasses, and;
- Exercising caution in the middle of the day when UV levels are most intense.

Moreton Bay Regional Council will take advantage of existing campaigns and strategies to promote sun safe behaviours to the community and will endeavour to initiate further strategies that will address local needs and circumstances.

While special consideration may be given to more vulnerable user-groups such as children in playground settings, Council also recognises the responsibility for users to appropriately manage activities within parks, reserves and open space to minimise exposure to UV radiation and surfaces that may have become hot due to sun exposure.

Review Triggers

This Policy is reviewed internally for applicability, continuing effect and consistency with related documents and other legislative provisions when any of the following occurs:

1. The related documents are amended.
2. The related documents are replaced by new documents.
3. Amendments which affect the allowable scope and effect of a Policy of this nature are made to the head of power.
4. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of Council.

Notwithstanding the above, this Policy is to be reviewed at least once every two years for relevance and to ensure that its effectiveness is maintained.

Responsibility

This Policy is to be:

1. Implemented by all Councillors and officers when considering issues and proposals related to shade in Parks and Public Open Space covered by this policy;
2. Reviewed and amended in accordance with the "Review Triggers" by the Director Engineering Construction & Maintenance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy: 2150-087</th>
<th>Official Version: A13067321</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Version</strong></td>
<td><strong>Adoption (Council meeting / Minute Page)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V1</td>
<td>Coordination Committee (16/238 - A12842523)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Related Links:**

- 2160-019 Policy Directive: YET TO BE ADOPTED