

<b>Policy Title:</b>	Sun Smart Policy
Policy Subject:	Community
Policy No:	#3609008v2 – CP043
Directorate:	Development & Community
Department:	Community & Economy
Section:	Community Development & Engagement
Responsible Officer:	Executive Manager Community & Economy
Authorised by:	Director Development & Community
Adopted Date:	22/08/2018
Review Date:	22/08/2021
Amended Date:	
Risk Assessment:	Low

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**OBJECTIVE:**

The objective of the Policy is to reduce the incidence of skin cancer in the Fraser Coast by increasing the provision of sustainable, quality shade and encouraging sun protection practices in the community.

As part of creating a healthy and safe environment, Fraser Coast Regional Council has a key role to play in providing the community with public places, facilities, open spaces and services that provide protection from sun exposure.

Sun exposure has been identified as the cause of around 99% of non-melanoma skin cancers and 95% of melanoma in Australia.

1. Skin cancer is therefore one of the most preventable forms of cancer;
2. Skin cancers account for around 83% of all new cancers diagnosed each year in Australia with at least one in every two Australians being diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime; and
3. Shade provides good protection from the sun and it can be very easy for people to use. Shade alone can reduce overall exposure to UV radiation by about 75%.

Council aims to provide safe and attractive open spaces and facilities for the community. This includes the provision of sustainable, quality shade. Council recognises that there are opportunities to improve the provision of shade across existing and newly developed council facilities.

Children's play areas will be considered high priority for shade provision.

**Policy**

1. Provision of quality shade that provides protection from solar UV radiation at the right place at the right time. Priority areas for shade provision are places where people gather at times of peak UV, in particular between 10am and 2pm Eastern Standard Time from September to April.
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2. Council operations include the following actions:

- Ensure that consideration of shade is incorporated into urban and open space planning and in the approval of planning permits.
  - Ensure the consideration of shade when planning and approving public facilities and renovating existing infrastructure including landscape design.
  - Increase the provision of sustainable, quality shade at particular sites within the municipality including, parks, playgrounds, sporting and recreation facilities and early childhood services.
  - Increase the provision of shade at community events.
  - Increase the provision of sustainable, quality shade in new estate developments.
  - Encourage community members to adopt sun protection practices to reduce individual risk.
  - Ensure that shade provision is incorporated into other existing policies across council.
  - Provide signage at community outdoor facilities/spaces encouraging sun protection practices, including seeking shade, for individuals.
3. Sustainable shade solutions usually involve strategic planting of trees and other vegetation incorporated with built shade to provide sun protection whilst shade trees are established.
4. Council work practices and procedures consider and provide protection for the health and safety of its employees.

**Role**

The role of this policy is to promote the consideration of shade, as a means to enhance the protection of workers and the community from harmful UV radiation, as a consideration of operational and capital programs.

**Authorities & Responsibilities**

All Council officers are responsible for ensuring that staff understand and implement the Policy.

Directors and Executive Managers are responsible for ensuring that the policy and strategies developed are implemented in a manner consistent with this policy.

**Scope & Activities**

The following principles and actions will be incorporated into operational procedures and capital programs;

- Ensure that consideration of shade is incorporated into urban and open space planning and in the approval of planning permits.
- Ensure the consideration of shade when planning and approving public facilities and renovating existing infrastructure including landscape design.
- Increase the provision of sustainable, quality shade at particular sites within the municipality including, parks, playgrounds, sporting and recreation facilities and early childhood services.
- Increase the provision of shade at community events.
- Increase the provision of sustainable, quality shade in new estate developments.
- Encourage community members to adopt sun protection practices to reduce individual risk.
- Ensure that shade provision is incorporated into other existing policies across council.

- Provide signage at community outdoor facilities/spaces encouraging sun protection practices, including seeking shade, for individuals.
- Prioritise the use of shade trees as the preferred form of shade.

**HEAD OF POWER:**

Local Government Act 2009

**RELATED LEGISLATION:**

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**RELATED DOCUMENTS (LOCAL LAWS, POLICIES, DELEGATIONS, ETC):**

Nil

**ATTACHMENT TO POLICY:**

Nil

**DEFINITIONS:**

Nil

**HISTORY:**

Amended: N/A