

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 public open space.

Definitions

Council means Moreton Bay Regional Council.

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

Public open space means any public space (including parks and reserves), other than a road, that is open to the sky and contributes to community wellbeing principally through its aesthetic qualities and opportunities for recreation within an urban or rural setting.

Park means an area of Council controlled open space primarily dedicated to public use for informal recreation purposes.

Reserve means open space that contributes to community wellbeing principally through environmental qualities and provides opportunities for nature-based recreation. The term also includes land acquired for local government purposes, such as drainage reserves.

Application

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

Policy Statement

In relation to sun protection within public 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 an acceptable outcome. Where conditions allow, natural shade (trees) will be considered for all new infrastructure/development projects.

Council acknowledges that newly planted shade trees can take time to establish and may not provide effective shade for the facility in the short to medium timeframe. In these situations, the provision of built shade solutions is to be implemented. In such circumstances, built shade solutions are to be considered an interim measure until such time that the natural shade becomes effective, at which time the built shade structure will be removed.

Policy: 2150-087 - Shade Policy

Built shade solutions are considered desirable for all Regional and District level parks and should be considered on an individual, site-specific basis and must be appropriate for the individual space. Built shade installations must also consider whole of life costs, public safety and incorporate environmentally sustainable materials and design. Playgrounds specifically targeting younger children are also to consider the installation of built shade. In situations where natural shade is not possible over junior playgrounds, built shade solutions will be required.

Moreton Bay Regional Council considers that it is unrealistic to provide 100% shade coverage to all public open space uses at all times.

Related Documents

This Policy complements and is to be implemented in conjunction with other Council policies, directives and relevant documents published by other agencies including, but not limited to:

- Queensland Health Creating Shaded in Public Facilities handbook
- Queensland Health Technical guideline for Public Facilities

Review and evaluation

This policy will be reviewed for applicability, effectiveness, and consistency with relevant legislation, Council resolutions, and other Council documents. Reviews of this policy will occur as required, or at least once every four years.

A review of this policy will occur by June 2026.

Responsibility

This Policy is to be:

- (1) implemented by Director, Infrastructure Planning; and
- (2) reviewed and amended in accordance with the "Review Triggers" by Manager, Parks and Recreation Planning.

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Document Control			
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