



NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

POLICY MANUAL

PLAYGROUND SHADE & FENCING

Originated Date: Adopted 11 December 2023; Min No. 23/0459

Amended Date/s:

Applicable Legislation: Australian Standards AS 4685.0:2017 - Playground equipment and surfacing Part 0: Development, installation, inspection maintenance and operation.

Building Act 2016

Tasmanian Planning Scheme

Objective To provide shade to public places, facilities and open spaces throughout the municipality

Administration: Works & Infrastructure

Review Cycle/Date: Every four years, next review 2027.

1. PURPOSE

As part of creating a healthy and safe environment, Northern Midlands Council has a key role to play in providing the community with public playgrounds that provide protection from sun exposure.

2. AIM

2.1 Shade

To reduce the incidence of skin cancer in the Northern Midlands Council municipality by increasing the provision of sustainable, quality shade within the municipality and encouraging the sun protection practices of the community.

2.2 Fencing

Provide safe playground environments from roads and permanent watercourses.

3. STATEMENTS

- Council aims to provide safe and attractive playground 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.
- Community members within the municipality are also to be encouraged to practice personal protection measures as recommended by SunSmart and other sun safe initiatives.
- Quality shade 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 and 11am and 3pm Daylight Saving Time.
- Sustainable shade solutions usually involve strategic planting of trees and other vegetation incorporated with built shade to provide sun protection.
- Safety should also be a major consideration in the provision of either natural or built shade. The provision of shade should not create safety hazards.

4. APPLICATION

- Ensure that consideration of shade is incorporated into urban and open space planning.
- 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 playgrounds within the municipality.



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- Increase the provision of shade at community events, including the erection of portable shade structures 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 and budget allocations.
- Provide signage at playground facilities/spaces encouraging sun protection practices, including seeking shade, for individuals.
- Take advantage of existing campaigns and strategies to promote sun safe behaviours to the community and endeavour to initiate further strategies that will address local needs and circumstance.
- Ensure any tree removal required for public safety does not result in any loss of shade via replacement tree planting or constructed shade.

5. ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

5.1 Shade

A shade audit will be conducted within the Northern Midlands area to identify the need for shade (including reflection mitigation) at public facilities and assess the suitability of existing shade provision. The audit should also include recommended timeframes for the establishment of new or additional shade. The audit must be reviewed and updated as part of the review of this policy. The audit should include a visual assessment of:

- Equipment and facilities available
- Surface materials for UVR reflection
- Existing built and natural shade
- Effectiveness of existing shade in relation to facilities
- Level of usage

5.2 Fencing

Fencing shall be provided around play equipment in playgrounds and open space when any of the following occur:

- The play equipment is within 20m of a title boundary adjacent to a main road or a road with a speed limit of greater than 50km/h.
- The play equipment is bordered on two or more sides by a road/s and is within 20m of the roadside boundaries.
- The play equipment is located adjacent to a permanent watercourse or permanent body of water.

The following documents are to be used as a reference for auditing and assessment:

- *Australian Standards AS 4685.0:2017 - Playground equipment and surfacing Part 0: Development, installation, inspection maintenance and operation*
- *Creating Shade at Public facilities, Policy & Guidelines for local Government - Edition 2*

6. REVIEW

The Council will review this policy at least every four years.