

Technical guidelines for shade provision in public facilities

The following pages provide guidelines for the recommended provision of shade in common public facilities.

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Development applications

Council will determine the compliance deadlines for the provision of shade at new public facilities during the development assessment process.

Source

Creating shade at public facilities—policy and guidelines for local government. Technical guidelines (pp 45-71).

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/documents/hpu/20267.pdf>

Beaches

Beaches prove to be popular places of recreation where the people are often exposed to excessive amounts of UVR in peak use times during the day. These activities are usually carried out in minimal clothing.

Considerations

- The canopies from trees planted along the boundary can provide shade to a considerable area.
- Portable shade items available for hire from Surf Clubs or nearby facilities such as shops or service stations.
- During special events or peak use times such as school holidays, shade structures could be provided by a surf club, nearby shop or the Council, fixed in popular use areas such as the patrolled area.
- Signs at beach entrances are useful if information can be changed daily to outline current UVR levels and the five recommended sun protection behaviours. It would be useful to involve the local Surf Lifesaving Queensland club in updating daily UV Index signs.

Essential shade provision

Location	Shade type
Foreshore areas	Natural shade
Walkways to facilities (showers, toilets etc.)	Natural shade

Recommended shade provision

Location	Shade type
Beach areas – portable shade structures for hire	Beach size umbrellas, marquees
Beach areas – portable shade structures to be provided for special events and peak use times	Large tents, beach size umbrellas, marquees

Related facilities

See if shade is needed for play equipment, BBQs and seating.

Bikeways

Bicycles are popular as a mode of active transport for work and leisure in both urban and regional locations.

When designing shade for bikeways it is important to retain the outdoor, open atmosphere, an aspect that makes them popular.

Considerations

- Ensure that shade from trees provides a canopy over the pathway.
- 2.4 metre clearance from the ground to the canopy.
- Trees planted on opposite sides of the pathway at distances specified to provide a balanced effect.
- Allow a 1 metre clearance between the pathway and the trunk of the shade tree.

Essential shade provision

Location	Shade type
Every 15-20 metres	Natural shade
1-2 metres from the pathway	Natural shade

Recommended shade provision

Location	Shade type
Every 15-20 metres	Natural shade
1-2 metres from the pathway	Natural shade
Drinking taps/ water fountains	Constructed or natural shade
Rest stops	Constructed or natural shade

Related facilities

If lookouts are situated along the bikeway and shade is needed see LOOKOUT the section.

Car parks

Large car parks often require people to walk a considerable distance before reaching their designated location.

Everyday incidental UVR exposure is cumulative and contributes to skin damage that can lead to the development of skin cancer.

Considerations

- The shade tree canopy must not block the driver or pedestrian's view.
- 2.4 metre clearance from the ground to the canopy.
- Provide a wide shade tree canopy over main pedestrian route/s.
- Ensure adequate space from planting to avoid damage to the pavement from tree roots.
- Use of a solid walkway roof will prevent walkways being used for car parking bays.

Essential shade provision

Location	Shade type
Every 10 th car park bay	Natural shade

Recommended shade provision

Location	Shade type
Every 5 th car park bay	Natural shade
Walkways to the facility	Solid roof

Related facilities

N/A

Lookouts

Lookouts are popular gathering points for tourists and residents. People may be exposed to UVR for long periods of time when visiting these facilities.

Considerations

- Shade should not impinge of the view.

Essential shade provision

Location	Shade type
Information signs	Natural shade
Viewing area	Natural shade

Recommended shade provision

Location	Shade type
Information signs	Natural shade
Viewing area	Solid roof and natural shade

Related facilities

If shade is needed for tables, BBQs and adjoining parklands see the PARKS section.

Outdoor dining

Outdoor dining is popular in Australia. This often occurs during the peak UV periods during the day. If adequate shade is not available, people can be exposed to UVR for an extended period of time.

Considerations

- Shade should not impinge of the view.
- Shade provision also enhances climatic comfort.

Essential shade provision

Location	Shade type
All seating	Integrated constructed shade (e.g. umbrellas, marquees, awnings) and natural shade

Recommended shade provision

Location	Shade type
All seating	Solid roof
Waiting areas for customer service	Constructed shade
Every 5 metres of other open space	Natural shade

Related facilities

N/A

Parks

People of varying ages use parks, generally for recreation. The amount of time each person spends at a park varies considerably, potentially resulting in significant UVR exposure.

Considerations

- Increasing protective shade reduces potential UVR reflection from surrounding surfaces.
- Natural shade near BBQs must not create potential fire hazards.
- Provision of multi lingual signs highlighting:
 - ❖ The five sun protection behaviours
 - ❖ Locations where shade is provided at this facility

Essential shade provision

Location	Shade type
All playground equipment	Natural or constructed shade
Supervision area adjacent to playground equipment	Natural or constructed shade
All seating and tables	Natural or constructed shade
All BBQs	Natural or constructed shade

Recommended shade provision

Location	Shade type
All playground equipment	Constructed shade
At a minimum 30% of the total ground cover	Natural shade

Related facilities

If shade is required for open-air stages provided within the park, see the PUBLIC MALLS section.

Public malls

Public malls are popular in the central business districts of many cities and towns. A diverse range of activities occur in public malls. Protective shade should be designed to be as aesthetic and practical as possible.

Considerations

- Ensure there is sufficient space around garden beds to avoid damage to the pavement from tree roots.
- In larger local governments, an integrated approach for natural and constructed shade should be used within the central business district.
- Provision of multi lingual signs highlighting:
 - ❖ The five sun protection behaviours
 - ❖ Locations where shade is provided at this facility

Essential shade provision

Location	Shade type
All seating areas	Natural or constructed shade
Stage area	Constructed shade
At a minimum 50% of the viewing area surrounding the stage	Integrated natural and constructed shade

Recommended shade provision

Location	Shade type
All seating areas	Constructed shade
Walkways	Integrated natural and constructed shade
Shop front awnings as wide as allowable over footpaths	Constructed shade

Related facilities

If shade is required footpath areas, see the BIKEWAYS section. See the OUTDOOR DINING if shade is required for dining areas.

Public pools

Swimming is one of the most popular summer activities in Australia. Almost every Local Government area has a public swimming pool. Community members using these facilities for swimming club, other structured or recreational activities are exposed to UVR for extended periods of time and wear minimal sun protective clothing. Pools are particularly high UVR environments due to the presence of large areas of reflective surfaces and the large area of open sky overhead.

Considerations

- When swimming lessons are held in the main pool area protective shade should be provided, particularly in the shallow end.
- Toddler pools and the surrounding supervising area must have protective shade.
- The use of portable structures for swimming lesson sessions is a practical solution.
- Solid roof materials which transmit light yet block UVR are effective at pool sites.
- Care should be taken when using natural shade to prevent increasing maintenance issues from leaves and branches falling in the water.
- Provision of multi lingual signs highlighting:
 - ❖ The daily UV Index
 - ❖ The five sun protection behaviours
 - ❖ Locations where shade is provided at this facility

Clothing

- Pool staff to wear personal protective clothing (broad brimmed hat; dark coloured, long sleeved collared shirt and knee length shorts, wraparound sunglasses) and apply broad spectrum SPF 30 or higher sunscreen every two hours.
- Kiosk at the pool to sell personal sun protection equipment e.g. long sleeved rashies, broad brimmed or bucket style hats, broad spectrum SPF 30 or higher sunscreen.

Essential shade provision

Location	Shade type
40% of the total outdoor pool complex area	Natural shade
Canteen area	Solid roof
100% of the toddler pool and surrounding supervising area	Constructed shade
30% of the total general swimming pool area to be covered	Constructed shade
75% of the total pool grounds	Integrated natural and constructed shade
100% of grand stand/spectator seating	Solid roof

Recommended shade provision

Location	Shade type
Carnivals and events – officials and competitors	Portable shade

Related facilities

N/A

Public utilities

Public utilities include ATMs, taxi ranks, ferry terminals and bus stops. These facilities are used all over Australia at various times of the day, by a variety of age groups.

People can wait at many of these locations for considerable periods of time, particularly during peak UV periods.

Shade should be designed to protect as many of the people using each facility as possible.

Considerations

- Shade should not obstruct the view of oncoming traffic.
- Shade should not obstruct pedestrian view.

Essential shade provision

Location	Shade type
Areas where people congregate including all seating and designated waiting areas	Natural shade

Recommended shade provision

Location	Shade type
Areas where people congregate including all seating and designated waiting areas	Constructed shade
75% of adjacent waiting areas	Natural shade
Vehicle ferry terminals	Designated waiting area- constructed shade for the average size of the vehicle load

Related facilities

N/A

Showgrounds

Showgrounds are utilised for a variety of events from annual shows to sporting games. These events usually result in participants and spectators being exposed to UVR for extended periods of time. Shade should be designed to protect as many of the people using each facility as possible.

Considerations

- Shade should not hinder view.
- Grandstands should face south if possible.
- Additional design features can improve the shade protection for grandstands e.g. installation of adjustable screening hung vertically from the front of the grandstand roof and the side screening particularly on the northern and western sides.
- Provision of multi lingual signs highlighting:
 - ❖ The daily UV Index
 - ❖ The five sun protection behaviours
 - ❖ Locations where shade is provided at this facility

Essential shade provision

Location	Shade type
50% of scattered seating	Natural shade
50% of grandstand seating	Natural and/or constructed shade
Walkways	Natural shade
Official area – time keeping, scoring etc.	Portable shade
Entry gates	Integrated natural and constructed shade
Outdoor eating areas	See the OUTDOOR DINING section

Recommended shade provision

Location	Shade type
All scattered casual seating	Integrated natural and constructed shade
All grandstand seating	Integrated natural and constructed shade
Walkways	Natural or constructed shade
Market stalls	Portable shade structures

Related facilities

If shade is required for outdoor dining areas, see the OUTDOOR DINING section.

Skate bowls

Skate bowls are recreational areas that are particularly popular with young people. Skate bowl facilities usually cater for in-line skaters, skate board riders, BMX riders and people with scooters. Participation in these activities can take considerable amounts of time, so whether the facility is a large complex or small half pipe, shade for both the participants and spectators is essential.

Considerations

- The safety of the participants is a high priority when planning and erecting shade structures on the ramp platforms.
- Portable shade for non-participants off ramp waiting areas may be used.
- Grandstands should face south if possible.
- Additional design features can improve the shade protection for grandstands e.g. installation of adjustable screening hung vertically from the front of the grandstand roof and the side screening particularly on the northern and western sides.
- When planting shade trees, consideration must be given to the design of the facilities in order to maximise shade protection in the right areas.

Essential shade provision

Location	Natural and/or constructed shade
50% of available seating or general viewing area	Natural and/or constructed shade
Official areas used during competitions	Portable shade
Every 15-20 metres around the perimeter of the facility – with concentrations on the north and west sides to account for the sun's movement	Natural shade
Official area – time keeping, scoring etc.	Portable shade
50% of the queuing area near to the 'take off' points	Natural and/or constructed shade
Separate supervision areas	Natural and/or constructed shade

Recommended shade provision

Location	Shade type
All spectator seating	Natural and/or constructed shade
All of the queuing area near to the 'take off' points	Natural and/or constructed shade
100% of rest or chill out areas	Natural and/or constructed shade
Every 15-20 metres around the perimeter of the facility – with concentrations on the north and west sides to account for the sun's movement	Natural shade

Related facilities

N/A

Sporting fields

Sporting fields are traditionally wide-open spaces with little or no consideration given to protective shade protection. Whether the facility is a large sponsored field or small suburban club, shade for players, officials and spectators is essential. Participation in these sporting activities can take considerable amounts of time with participants, officials and spectators being exposed to UVR for extended periods of time.

Considerations

- There is a requirement for 100% shade protection for players when they are off the field.
- Shade should not hinder view.
- Grandstands should face south if possible.
- Additional design features can improve the shade protection for grandstands e.g. installation of adjustable screening hung vertically from the front of the grandstand roof and the side screening particularly on the northern and western sides.
- Provision of multi lingual signs highlighting:
 - ❖ The daily UV Index
 - ❖ The five sun protection behaviours
 - ❖ Locations where shade is provided at this facility

Essential shade provision

Location	Natural and/or constructed shade
50% of spectator seating or general viewing area	Integration of natural and constructed shade
100% if player marshalling/off field area e.g. dugout	Natural, portable or constructed shade
Official areas – time keeping, scoring etc.	Portable shade
Entry gates	Integration of natural and constructed shade
Every 15-20 metres around the perimeter of the facility – with concentrations on the north and west sides to account for the sun's movement	Natural shade
Official area – time keeping, scoring etc.	Portable shade
Outdoor eating areas	See the OUTDOOR DINING section

Recommended shade provision

Location	Shade type
All spectator seating	Solid Roof
100% if player marshalling/off field area e.g. dugout	Solid Roof
All non-seating spectator areas	Natural and/or constructed shade
Every 15-20 metres around the perimeter of the facility – with concentrations on the north and west sides to account for the sun's movement	Natural shade
Golf courses – 100% spectator seating	Natural and portable shade

Related facilities

N/A