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SHADE POLICY



NAPIER
CITY COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri

Shade Policy



Adopted by	Napier City Council on 29 November 2016
Relevant Legislation	Not Applicable
NCC Documents Referenced	Not Applicable

Purpose

The purpose of this Shade Policy (the Policy) is to:

- Reduce the impacts of sun exposure.
- Support the Napier City Council's outcomes to provide infrastructure and services to support good health and wellbeing; and safe and accessible recreational facilities.

Scope

The Policy focuses on two areas:

1. The provision of shade where people undertake an activity for extended periods and includes the following:
 - Playgrounds including seated areas.
 - Sit and stay areas e.g. BBQ areas.
 - Recreational outdoor areas e.g. swimming pools.
 - Reserves, including sportsgrounds, popular beach reserves, and amenity areas e.g. parks and gardens.
 - Events held on Council owned facilities and outdoor areas.
2. Education about being sun smart, particularly at Council owned facilities and Council events.

Policy

Background

The Cancer Society identifies that skin cancer is the most common cancer in New Zealand, with New Zealanders at high risk of developing a skin cancer during their lifetime. Our skin cancer rates are among the highest in the world. Melanoma incidence rates in Australia and New Zealand are around four times as high as those found in Canada, the USA and the United Kingdom.

New Zealand's high skin cancer rates are due to:

- the high levels of Ultra Violet Rays (UVR) in New Zealand during daylight savings months;
- low ozone levels over New Zealand;
- our outdoor lifestyle and tendency to 'seek the sun'; and,
- the high proportion of people with fair skin. Light skin and eye colour, large numbers of moles and excessive sun exposure (particularly intermittent episodes of sunburn), especially in childhood and adolescence, can increase your risk of skin cancer.

Napier City Council recognises that skin cancer is preventable.

Council's Role

The Council recognises it has a role in providing safe and accessible recreational facilities for the people of Napier. A shade policy will enhance the health and wellbeing of the City. Where people are outdoors enjoying the many facilities that our City has to offer, exposure to the effects of ultraviolet radiation can be minimized through the provision of adequate shading. People also have a responsibility in minimizing their own exposure to ultraviolet radiation.

Policy objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Contribute to a reduction in the incidence of skin cancer in Napier, and
- Reduce people's exposure to ultraviolet radiation through provision of shade opportunities, either natural or structured components, or a combination of both in Napier's parks, reserves, outdoor areas in facilities and at outdoor events.

Principles

The principles of this policy are:

- The Policy is guided by national legislative and policy direction and by community feedback.
- The Policy is aimed at lessening the effects of sun exposure on the people of Napier, particularly children and young people.
- The focus of the Policy is on providing more shaded environments for the people of Napier as practicable and appropriate.

Considerations

Settings may require different approaches and need to consider the following factors:

- Levels of use and activity.
- Site characteristics and growing conditions **e.g.** exposure, public profile.
- CPTED principles **e.g.** access, surveillance and sightlines.
- Where possible, natural shading options are preferred because it blocks direct UVR, absorbs indirect UVR and is considered aesthetically pleasing and more environmentally friendly.

Process

- Napier City Council will undertake a review to gain a preliminary understanding of existing shade in Napier to determine priority areas for shading and will assist with additional shading.
- Consideration of shading will be given to new projects and existing project upgrades.

Policy Review

The review timeframe of this policy will be no longer than every three years.

Sources

- Cancer Society NZ (2016). SunSmart. Retrieved from <https://central-districts.cancernz.org.nz/en/reducing-cancer-risk-2/what-you-can-do/sunsmart/>
- Palmerston North City Council (2016). Sun Protection Policy. Retrieved from <http://www.pncc.govt.nz/plans-policies-and-public-documents/policies/sun-protection-policy/>
- Greenwood, J.S., Soulos, G.P., & Thomas, N.D. (1998). Under Cover: Guidelines for shade planning and design. Retrieved from <https://cancernz.org.nz/assets/Sunsmart/Sunsmart-resources/Guidelines-Under-Cover.pdf>



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