



SHADE:

A RESOURCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT





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Introduction

Australia has one of the highest incidences of skin cancer in the world. It is the most common form of cancer in Victoria. Two out of every three Victorians will be diagnosed with a form of skin cancer by the age of 70. In 2014, melanoma (the most dangerous skin cancer) was the fifth most common cancer in Victoria with 2,466 new cases diagnosed, and 279 deaths from the disease.

The major cause of skin cancer is over-exposure to ultra violet radiation (UVR) from the sun. Good protection from UVR (including wearing appropriate clothing, using sunscreen and seeking shade) can prevent most skin cancers. Shade is one of the easiest and most effective ways to protect against over-exposure to UVR. Quality shade alone can reduce overall exposure to UVR by around 75 per cent.

As an owner and manager of public places across the state, local government plays an important role in the provision of shade. Shade provision is an important part of the design and creation of healthy communities. The demand on local government to provide quality, functional shade is growing as communities continue to embrace, evolve and increase use of public spaces. However, council capacity to meet this demand and install and maintain quality shade varies across the state.



How to use this resource

Shade: a resource for local government demonstrates interesting approaches to shade delivery and provides councils with a better understanding of the context for shade development.

Section 1 of this resource showcases different approaches to shade being adopted by councils across the state. Six case studies explore creative shade projects and policy approaches that support shade and infrastructure provision.

Section 2 provides an overview of the legislative and policy framework which supports council activities around shade provision and skin cancer prevention. It includes the findings of the MAV's Skin Cancer Prevention Survey 2015.

Shade Design for Public Places – a companion resource

Shade: a resource for local government is supported by a companion document, *Shade Design for Public Places*, which demonstrates interesting approaches to shade provision within certain price brackets. This document aims to challenge and improve traditional thinking on shade design and delivery to assist councils with selection of appropriate, innovative and cost effective shade options in public spaces.



1. Case Studies

Councils are undertaking a range of activities to raise awareness of the importance of sun protection and increase quality shade within their municipalities.

Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Shade-specific policy development
- Auditing existing shade and prioritising shade needs
- Developing a hierarchy of shade at outdoor areas to make best use of limited resources
- Conducting shade planning and design workshops with relevant staff
- Providing shade at community events and, where possible, hosting events outside of peak UV times
- Staff training on sun protection and skin cancer prevention.

Council activities in this area are determined by available resources and expertise within the organisation. Some of these activities are examined in further detail through a number of case studies.



Creative shade design



Greater Geelong City Council

Queens Park – A Playground in the Trees

The City of Greater Geelong officially opened the new Queens Park playground in May 2015. The custom built playground gives children the opportunity to climb and play on ropes amongst and attached to the surrounding trees in a shaded environment.

“It has been custom built and specially designed to attach play equipment to the existing trees, and it provides loads of shade” Cr John Irvine (Sport and Recreation portfolio holder).

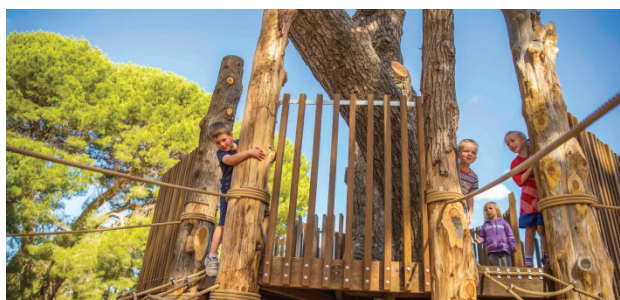
Queens Park was upgraded to a sub-regional park following the adoption of the Queens Park Master Plan. This also meant the existing playground needed to be upgraded to provide the infrastructure to support a sub-regional park. The Master Plan identified an upgraded playground in amongst the trees to give a feeling of being close to nature and to utilise a large amount of natural shade. With that theme in mind, the park’s staff met with council’s landscape architect onsite to decide what this might look like. Ideas at this initial meeting grew from a playground among the trees to the trees becoming the playground.

Before council could take the idea further, the trees were assessed to ensure it was safe for children to play there. A small number of trees needed to be removed for safety reasons. These were incorporated back in to the playground. A large trunk was used as part of the fort and limbs were used for seating and other structures within the play space. Other risks identified were potential falling pine cones and risks that come from children climbing in a playground. Strategies to address these risks were included in council’s maintenance plan.

The community was consulted during the master planning stage and through the drafting of the Geelong Play Strategy. It was through this consultation that the community’s desire for a more natural playground was identified. Council referred to information collected through the community consultation processes, but did not seek community input into the specific design of the playground.

More visitors, longer stays

The old playground was “plonked in the middle of a paddock”, exposed to the elements with little shade nearby. It was popular on weekends when people used the park for barbecues and gatherings. No one really came to Queens Park to visit the playground. Council wanted to change this by giving the community a unique playground experience. Council took a risk in provided a totally unique playground experience and it paid off. The new playground has very high use levels, with a threefold increase in visitors. The once under-utilised playground now has visitors every day of the week, for long periods of time. The high visitor numbers can’t be attributed to shade alone (the unique nature of the playground would be a major drawcard), but council can confidently say the extended length of time visitors stay is due to the abundance of shade in and around the park.





Costs and Maintenance

The Queens Park playground cost \$250,000 to install. It was jointly funded by council (\$180,000) and the State Government (\$70,000). The shade was free.

It is true that maintenance has increased at the site, but it is on par with the maintenance required at any heavily used playground in a sub-regional park within the municipality. Rather than maintaining playground equipment and shade structures as would be the case in a traditional playground, council is assessing and maintaining trees, ropes and fixings.

Challenges – not what you would think

The greatest challenge wasn't overcoming risks associated with children playing among trees. It was actually finding a company that was able to deliver what council wanted. There are a number of examples of this kind of park overseas, but none that council is aware of in Australia. As a result most companies offered off-the-shelf solutions that were to be placed in and around the trees, rather than on the trees. Only one company was willing to be flexible and come up with a solution that was purpose built for the park. It involved the development of a rope system that allowed it to move with the trees, which had implications for the footings and fixings used.

Another challenge was the tendering process. You need to have drawings developed to a level that a project can go to tender, but the design is constrained by what can actually be achieved with the products available. Once a company was engaged (through the tendering process), the design had to be modified to suit the rope systems that could be utilised on the site. It is important to be flexible and willing to compromise your initial idea to develop a unique playground that works.

“Become mates with the arborists, you’ll be spending a lot of time together in the early stages,” Paul Cotter, Senior Recreation and Open Space Officer.



East Gippsland

Nicholson Street Mall Redevelopment – A Grand Statement

East Gippsland Shire Council has strengthened Bairnsdale's role as the regional centre and "civic heart" for its 42,000 residents, creating a contemporary and vibrant urban centre with public spaces to support commercial, cultural and social activity.

Re-imagining the Mall

Through the Re-Imagining Bairnsdale Project, the shire has transformed the Nicholson Street mall in the centre of Bairnsdale from a tired, dated and uninviting space with few facilities into a vibrant and energised centre. It includes extensive shaded areas, a new event area, a remodelled and expanded kiosk, a new automated public toilet, impressive open space, improved pedestrian access, seating, lighting and bike racks, CCTV and a taxi rank.

Council wanted to create a place where the community could congregate and linger. Providing good shade was key to achieving this. Council decided to retain as many of the existing large trees as possible to keep a natural feel and a link to the past. This was contrasted with a large sculptural shade structure to provide an interesting, artistic focal point.

The shade at Nicholson Mall reflects a changing philosophy of council. There is a growing understanding that shade is an important feature of the urban landscape. It plays a key role in connecting places and getting people into the landscape. For example, people are more inclined to walk in areas where pedestrian shade is provided, and people will stay longer in a park that provides adequate shade in and near a playground.

Cost and Maintenance

Redevelopment of the Nicholson Street Mall cost \$2million. The majority of this came from council funds (\$1.33million), Regional Development Victoria provided \$430,000, the State Government's Local Government Infrastructure Program provided \$131,000 and the Victorian Taxi Commission provided \$83,000 for the upgrade of the taxi rank.

Council spent \$182,387 on all shade structures in the mall. This figure includes materials for all structures, demolition of existing structures, lighting and electrical works, stormwater infrastructure and labour.

Maintenance requirements for a unique shade structure have not varied significantly from those required for a standard off-the-shelf option. The major shade structure requires a little more cleaning because its colour shows up dirt more than a darker colour. But when compared to the maintenance required for the aging structures that were in the mall, the impact is negligible.

Partnerships a key to Community Ownership

From beginning to end, the project was underpinned by partnerships and consultation with businesses and mall users.

Project planners worked with a reference group of around 20 influential people, including representatives of the Bairnsdale Chamber of Commerce, business and property owners, members of industry and community groups, and council representatives. The group was involved in all aspects of the project. Members' ideas included identifying the need for a public toilet in the mall and retaining established trees.

Council officers created a detailed communications campaign to engage and inform the traders, and to encourage them to share information with their customers. There was regular coverage in local media outlets updating the community about the progress of the works, highlighting the offering of local traders and encouraging business in the mall.



As well as fostering strong relationships with planning staff, the engagement created strong community pride and ownership of the mall.

Community Embracing the New Space

Council has received extremely positive feedback from the community. There has been continued business growth, an increase in visitation to the mall (counters in the toilets show an average of 120 uses per day) and bookings for use of the community spaces within the mall have increased significantly. While the increased use of the mall cannot be attributed solely to the shade provided, it is a major factor drawing community groups to hold events in the mall and in keeping people in the space for long periods of time, adding to the vibrancy and atmosphere of the area.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

As councils will know first-hand, many challenges arise when undertaking construction in a constrained site over a 10-month-period, while at the same time trying to minimise impacts on traders. Council managed this through careful engagement and communication.

Council has learnt the importance of early engagement with all traders. In the early stages council worked closely with the chamber of commerce, however not all traders are members of this organisation, and therefore were not as well engaged early on in the project.

Lessons from the project – including the value of establishing a community and business reference group and the development of an effective communications strategy – are now being applied to other infrastructure projects within East Gippsland Shire Council.

• photos supplied by Brooker Builders



Knox City Council

DORSET SQUARE – Shade as Art

Knox City Council employed unique sculptural shade structures to help rejuvenate Dorset Square, the retail core of the Boronia Activity Centre.

Bringing Life back to Dorset Square

Dorset Square is home to the Boronia Mall, a discount department store, supermarket and cinema complex. Council's Boronia Structure Plan identified a range of issues inhibiting greater public use of the space. These included pedestrian safety, poor paving and infrastructure provision, and limited shade.

The Dorset Square upgrade was one of a number of catalyst capital works projects associated with implementation of the Boronia Structure Plan.

It included the installation of three major sculptural shade structures made from stainless steel. The roof structure is laser cut with Boronia flowers allowing sprinkles of sunlight to filter through the canopies, adding another layer of interest. These structures provide a number of important functions in the Square:

- Destination and incidental shade along the main pedestrian route
- Artistic element to the redevelopment of the square, which is enhanced at night time by dramatic lighting. This lighting is complemented by feature public lighting and light boxes in Cinema Lane (at the southern end of Dorset Square).

The shade structures provide an intentional focus point of change in the precinct. As part of the major refurbishment of the shopping precinct, the presence of striking structural change on the ground was supplemented by the creativity of the lighting and shade structures. They provide a point of visual interest for visitors and traders, in addition to providing much needed shade and comfort.

Along with the installation of the shade structures, other initiatives at Dorset Square included accessibility improvements, shade tree planting and integrated water sensitive urban design, public lighting and seating.

A Bold, Unique Statement

Council decided to go with a bold, unique design for two reasons:

1. The existence of underground services ruled out any tree planting
2. The structures provided instant shade (as opposed to waiting for a tree to grow) and the instant impact of a sculptural element (which could assist in drawing people to that end of Dorset Square).

Council engaged architectural firm Studio 505 to design the structures and feature lighting in the adjacent laneway to ensure connectivity of the two spaces.

- Architect
studio505
- Structural Engineer
ASSE Consultants Pty Ltd
- Lighting Advisor
The Flaming Beacon Pty Ltd
- Fabricator
Pinnacle Metal Fabrication
- Photographer
Sebastian Gollings



Cost and Maintenance

Each of the shade structures cost around \$50,000 to purchase and install (excluding design fees).

Even though the shade structures are intricate and unique, they do not require any additional maintenance than a standard structure. They are inspected as part of normal maintenance routines and cleaned annually with a high pressure hose.

Challenges – Bringing the Community Along

While the broad principles outlined in the concept for Dorset Square were identified in the Structure Plan, council identified two significant challenges during the planning and design phase:

1. Potential for the shade structure to block views to signage of adjacent commercial tenancies.
2. Potential for residents and traders to view the expenditure as excessive, especially considering the cost of nearby amenities that provided significant added benefit to the location.

Council addressed these challenges by:

- Undertaking modelling, onsite testing and production of photo mock ups to ensure views and signage would not be impacted
- Engagement activities during design development and construction of the Dorset Square upgrade, including regular meetings between council officers and a traders reference group, preparation and distribution of information bulletins and one-on-one discussions with traders in the immediate vicinity of the shade structures.
- Display of a scale model of the shade structure at the construction site office (which was in a vacant tenancy near to the location of the shade structures).
- Council also provided updates in ward-based newsletter publications that were distributed to residents of the intersecting Baird and Chandler wards (Boronia and The Basin).

During the planning stage, some sections of the community had reservations about the amount of council resources being spent on an “elaborate” shade design. However, since their installation council has not received any negative feedback about the structures.

Dorset Square – a changed place

The shade structures are an integral part of the Dorset Square upgrade. They provide substantial shade which allows pedestrians and shoppers to linger in the space, providing life to what was an uninspiring landscape. They provide a visual landmark, demonstrating the changed space to what it once was. Their impressive appearance from close up and at a distance serves as a marker of improvement, both during the day and night, when they are particularly impressive given the positioning of lighting.

Lessons Learnt

Shade structures can have a dual purpose; to provide shade as well as an artistic/visual element to a landscape. Before you embark on such an exercise be clear on the objective:

- Is the shade needed?
- Does it require a unique design element to suit the current or future setting?
- Will this shade structure provide a benefit to people visiting the space (do most people pass through the area, do they require destination shade to extend the time they spend in the area?)
- Are there other influences around the shade structures that would discourage people from using the shade?

Ensure the community is supportive of a significant outlay on shade structures (as opposed to trees) by providing ample opportunities for consultation or information sharing.

Further information <http://www.studio505.com.au/work/project/boronia-luminaire-shading-structures/67>





Initiatives supporting better shade

CITY OF WHITTLESEA

Shade Policy – 15 Years of Strategic Direction

Council recognises the important role it plays in providing well planned public facilities and environments that help to minimise sun exposure for a rapidly growing community. Located 20km north of Melbourne's CBD, the City of Whittlesea consists of a combination of established areas, new growth areas and rural areas. This presents council with an opportunity to actively influence the development of our new communities and add value to existing community facilities.

While there is state legislation and plans to guide council action in this area, council recognised a shade policy was required to provide strategic direction, clarify council's position and ensure the consistent application of shade across different settings and functions (including playgrounds, preschools and planning applications). This was further strengthened with evidence and local data highlighting the links between sun exposure and skin cancers in Australia. Subsequently, council developed our inaugural Shade Policy in 1999 (the "Policy").

The policy outlines council's role and priority areas for action and reflects an integrated, cross-council approach to the provision of shade. It prioritises groups most at risk of sun exposure, with a focus on young children and areas used by people engaged in sport and recreational activities.

Supporting the Policy

To support the development and implementation of the policy, capacity-building activities were delivered across council to ensure staff had the knowledge and skills required to undertake shade audits and implement best practice shade design principles.

The policy is implemented within current human resources, and officers are supported to actively identify and apply for external grants to support action on policy objectives.

Policy Review

More recently, a review of the policy was a key action in our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) 2013-2017. This raised the profile of the policy, encourages engagement from other departments and ensures regular monitoring of outcomes.

The purpose of the policy review was to ensure the policy reflected new opportunities to enhance the provision of shade across the municipality, new legislative requirements and articulated council's role as a provider, facilitator and advocate in the provision of shade.

The review identified many of the actions have been successfully incorporated into business as usual, leading to greater shade provision for our communities.

However, the consultation process also identified barriers that have hindered implementation of the policy, which include: competing demands on facility design and resource allocation, staff capacity, staff turnover and knowledge loss, and weak support for shade in the Whittlesea Planning Scheme. The review also uncovered gaps in our implementation and monitoring process. Notwithstanding, the existing policy provides a valuable platform to strengthen council's response to shade and support further integration of shade considerations in our policy and planning processes. .



Challenges to Successful Implementation

The review process identified challenges to successful policy implementation. The technical nature of shade planning requires expertise across various departments including Health Promotion, Parks and Open Space, Early Years Infrastructure Planning, Major Projects and Family, Children and Young People. Effective collaboration and partnerships are essential to help drive this work.

Why have a Shade Policy?

There have been multiple benefits to the adoption of a shade policy. In addition to providing clarity and strategic direction to council's shade provision activities, it has also enabled us to successfully apply for external funding applications, as our collective vision and objectives are clearly outlined. Development of the policy has also been a valuable mechanism to build relationships across departments.

Achievements include:

- Award for Excellence in Public Health Development (2000)
- SunSmart Shade Strategy Award (2006)

Lessons Learnt

- Identify opportunities to refine and add value to existing policies and practices
- Establish partnerships with multiple council departments – shade provision requires input staff with diverse skill sets and expertise
- Look for opportunities to prioritise shade in MPHWP as a mechanism to encourage support and raise the profile of shade across the organisation
- Refer to existing templates and tools from SunSmart to develop policy statements and actions.





Yarra Ranges Council

Using *Creating Places for People: An Urban Design Protocol for Australian Cities* to guide asset management and investment

Yarra Ranges Council is using the principles outlined in *Creating Places for People: An Urban Design Protocol for Australian Cities* (the Protocol) as a basis for prioritising investment in towns across the municipality, including the provision of shade.

What is *Creating Places for People*?

The Protocol is a national commitment to best practice urban design in Australia. Its development was an action from the National Urban Policy (2011), the then Australian Government's strategic policy framework for the country's 18 major cities. It was developed in collaboration between peak community and professional organisations, businesses and all three levels of government. The Protocol is planned for reinvigoration over 2016 as part of the new Commonwealth Minister's Office for Cities.

The Protocol aims to '*create productive, sustainable and liveable places for people through leadership and the integration of design excellence*'. It establishes twelve broadly agreed principles for quality urban places in the Australian context. These principles can be applied to any project or location—whether it is in a large capital city, regional centre or rural town. The power of the document is in its comprehensiveness and strong linking between a person's quality of life, their built environment, its productivity and its governance.

Why is Council using the Protocol? And How?

Yarra Ranges Council is committed to supporting communities delivering 'their place' – a uniquely resilient, active and productive town. Councillors and the Executive team recognised the worth of the Protocol in assisting them to achieve this. The research commenced in October 2014. It is anticipated the project, including data analysis and distribution, will be completed in April 2016. Council currently has five staff working on the project on a part-time basis.

The research covers 41 towns across the municipality. It covers the main street, activity centre (commercial area) and a 2km catchment.

It was important for council to maintain objectivity while collecting data. As such there was no qualitative community consultation as this occurs in the lead up to detailed project design. Instead council relied on using existing data from other places, such as ABS and aerial photography. Site visits were undertaken by university work placement students. It took two people four hours to visit each town and collect the required built environment information.

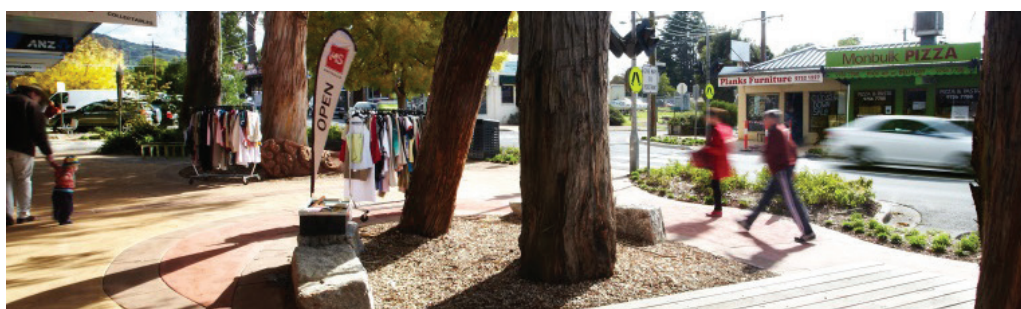
How is the Protocol Relevant to Shade?

Yarra Ranges Council recognises that shade contributes to amenity, aesthetics and the health of our towns and community.

This contribution is also recognised in the Protocol. Shade is specifically mentioned in two of the 12 principles which make up the Protocol:

- Comfortable and
- Walkable.

Shade is also a secondary or tertiary consideration in other principles.





How Will this Research Help Council?

This research will help council to recognise which of its 41 towns are doing well and which are in need of further investment. It will identify common characteristics of the better performing towns which can be cross referenced with the towns in need of greater investment. For example:

- Good performing commercial areas may have awnings, verandahs and street trees which may make them pleasant areas to visit during the warmer months. Commercial areas without these features may not perform as well during the same time of year.
- People may be more active in towns that have shaded walking and bike paths. A lack of shade may be a barrier to walking/cycling in some towns during the warmer months.
- Spaces for young people that have shade/shelter, places to sit and WiFi may be better utilised than those that don't. Perhaps every town doesn't need a skate park if they have the right infrastructure that meets the needs of the youth in that community.
- Shade isn't always provided in orthodox ways. For example, in assessing shade in a main street, some species of street tree provide more shade than others, or south facing main streets have buildings that provide some shade in summer, even without awnings.

It is anticipated the findings will help council to better plan for shade infrastructure provision, maintenance and renewal for the benefit of the whole community.

The data collected this year will help to set a benchmark so council can assess the benefit of investment. Council aims to undertake this exercise again in five years' time to assist with drafting of our next Capital Works Plan.

Challenges and Lesson Learnt

At the beginning, council staff had a fairly open brief regarding the data to be collected and what it would be used for. This resulted in 217 criteria being identified and data collected on each for the 41 towns. Useful analysis of this much data now requires a simplified, multi criteria analysis. Having said that, all the data collected will be available for the use of all departments across council to help guide their activities.

A strategy for other councils may be to start smaller and more targeted the first time around by asking questions like, "What is the data for?, Who is going to use it? How can the data support asset management planning?" The approach and scope will be determined by the resources available, the desired outcome and commitment of council.

Shade adds to the liveability of urban areas in warmer months. In cooler months communities in Yarra Ranges seek out winter sun. It is important that council gets the balance right and designs spaces that provide both shade in summer and solar access in winter.



Greater Shepparton City Council

Sport, Recreation and Open Space Masterplan – Putting Shade Where it is Needed

“The community is crying out for shade. This Plan will help us to understand where it is needed,” Mel Sporry (Team Leader Sports Development & Strategic Planning)

The City of Greater Shepparton is developing a Sport, Recreation and Open Space Masterplan to assist council to better target maintenance, refurbishment and use of open space across the municipality.

Council does not currently have an Open Space Strategy. Rather it has a database of open space and infrastructure which guides infrastructure provision and maintenance. This database does not provide council with a detailed understanding of the areas we are servicing, whether these are valued by the community, or if the infrastructure provided caters for community needs or level of use.

Good quality shade is a common infrastructure request from the community. In response, the provision of shade is a key infrastructure priority in our plan. This plan will challenge the old ways of thinking by highlighting new ideas for designing shade and integrating it with other infrastructure to better meet community needs. This will be complemented by new thinking around softening spaces, reducing heat and making areas accessible places that people want to spend time in.

Development of the plan is being driven by officers and the community’s desire for improved open spaces. Strategic planning officers identified the need to better manage open space including relevant streetscapes and public areas, such as malls.

Relationships are Essential

Cross council collaboration and support has been essential in developing the plan. The strategic planning officers have been working collaboratively with our parks team and the community planning team. Community planning staff have been working closely with the community to identify areas of value and infrastructure needs, which is being fed into the plan.

Once the content for the plan had been identified, a cross-department meeting was held to give key departments a better understanding of what the plan was aiming to achieve. This resulted in support at the director and CEO level, a dedicated budget and further cooperation across council.

The plan involves an audit of all open space the community has access to in the municipality, including land owned or managed by other public land managers. This will identify areas of greatest need for shade and other infrastructure. Where the need for shade is identified on land not managed by council, we will advocate to the responsible authority on the community’s behalf. To assist with this, council is building relationships between the organisation and key agencies, involving them in the drafting of the plan.

Budget

The plan has a budget of \$100,000 for two years (\$50,000 per year). This will pay for development of the plan (most of which is being done in-house) and community consultation.

Getting the Community on Board

At this early stage, community needs are being incorporated into the plan through the knowledge of the community planning team. It is vital the community sees this as “their” plan. A series of community consultations are planned to ensure the community has an opportunity to shape the plan and make it their own.



A Plan to Guide Investment

It is anticipated this plan will change how council thinks about shade. Council currently has an effective maintenance program, however the maintenance tradition has been to replace “like with like” and not question whether a piece of infrastructure should be replaced, upgraded, moved or removed all together. For example, an old seat in the open in a park would be replaced by a new seat in the same spot when it may be better placed under a tree or near a playground or path.

This plan will help guide future investment and ensure funds are spent more strategically. It will do this by questioning whether infrastructure is in an area valued by the community with a level of use suitable to the infrastructure provided, and it is integrated with existing infrastructure and uses.

What Has Worked

Council support has been crucial to getting the plan off the ground. Building relationships with the key teams across council (and outside of the organisation) will help to ensure:

- the community’s needs will be met
- the plan will have required resources dedicated to its development and implementation
- the teams who will be implementing the plan understand and support what it is trying to achieve
- a consistency of approach on land not managed by council.

Having an officer dedicated to its development has been crucial in building and sustaining these relationships, and ensuring the project keeps momentum



Legislation and policy

Local government's role in shade provision is supported by legislation and policies to prevent skin cancer and foster healthy communities. Council action on skin cancer prevention can be influenced or supported by a range of policies and strategies at a local, state and national level.

NATIONAL

Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (2006)

The *Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (2006)*, published by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), contains guidelines for both employers and employees for minimising workers' exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

National Cancer Prevention Policy

The *National Cancer Prevention Policy* (Cancer Council Australia) makes specific recommendations for national action by governments and non-government organisations, including programs and strategies to reduce the incidence of specific preventable cancer types.

VICTORIA

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* sets out legislative and administrative measures to improve occupational health and safety in Victoria.

It requires employers to provide and maintain safe working environments. Under the Act, employers must ensure employees can work safely and without risk to their health; including limiting exposure to UV radiation. Employees also have a responsibility for their own safety and health. As such they must follow UV protection policies and use sun protective measures provided by their employer.

Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* requires the Victorian Minister for Health to prepare a State Public Health and Wellbeing Plan every four years from September 2011.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Plan outlines the government's key priorities over a four year period to improve the health and wellbeing of all Victorians, particularly the most disadvantaged. The plan focuses on healthy living in an attempt to overcome preventable chronic diseases and injuries at every age.

The latest Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2015–2019 was released in September 2015. The priorities in the current plan are:

- Healthier eating and active living (which includes actions for skin cancer prevention)
- Tobacco-free living
- Reducing harmful alcohol and drug use
- Improving mental health
- Preventing violence and injury
- Improving sexual and reproductive health.

The plan also identifies the importance of looking after the environment and addressing climate change and its impacts on health and wellbeing.

Skin Cancer Prevention Framework

In December 2013, the Victorian Government released the Skin Cancer Prevention Framework 2013-2017. The Framework outlines a comprehensive, community-wide approach to reducing the burden of skin cancer in Victoria. It contains a number of strategic directions, including improved shade provision in public spaces where people spend time outdoors.

Community Shade Grants Program

The Community Shade Grants Program provides grants for shade development in public spaces such as parks, playgrounds and community venues (including sports grounds). It aims to reduce Victorians' over-exposure to ultraviolet radiation through increasing shade provision in public places across the state and influencing increased uptake in other sun protection practices. It is open to local government, sports clubs and community organisations and not-for-profit kindergartens and early childhood centres. The program funds built and natural shade, repair of existing shade structures, portable shade solutions and the purchase of sun protection items such as hats and sunscreen. The Community Shade Grants Program is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. Annual grants rounds will be conducted until 2018/19.

SunSmart Shade Guidelines

These guidelines can be used by local government, individuals and organisations wanting to increase availability of shade in a range of settings.

The guidelines provide general information to help these groups to:

- Understand issues associated with the sun's UV radiation
- Understand issues associated with shade
- Identify shade needs
- Understand how to conduct a shade audit
- Plan, implement and evaluate a shade project.

SunSmart also provides a number of policy templates for councils interested in incorporating sun protection strategies into their policies, strategic plans and strategic statements.

LOCAL

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans

Local government plays a key role in creating an environment for communities to prosper and enjoy improved health and wellbeing.

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* requires councils to prepare a four-year municipal health and wellbeing plan or include health and wellbeing matters in their council plans.

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) outlines the broad mission, goals and priorities of a council to promote municipal public health and wellbeing; which in turn inform the operational processes of council and local organisations.

It must be informed by the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, which provides councils with a set of strategic directions and broad priorities within which to develop their Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans.

Specific Councils Plans and Strategies

Councils may produce a variety of strategic documents that can assist skin cancer prevention strategies, such as:

- specific shade plans
- playground/public open space plans
- heatwave plans
- street tree plans
- early years strategies and
- occupational health and safety plans.
- early years strategies and
- occupational health and safety plans.



The State of Play

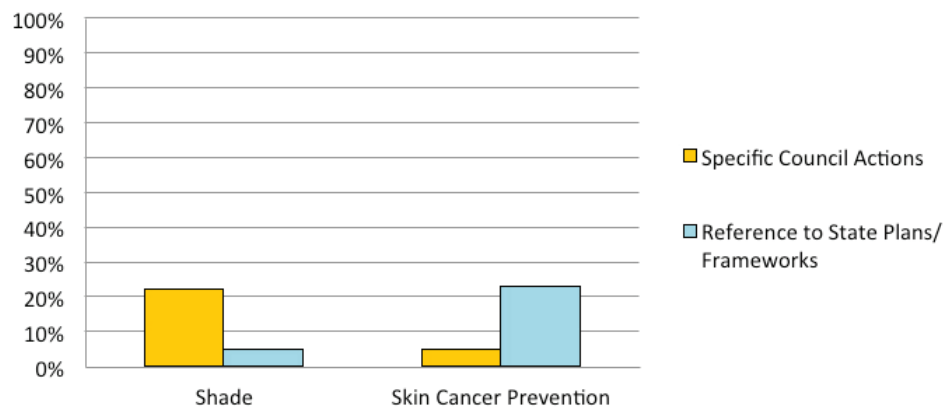
Skin Cancer Prevention and Shade Provision in Local Government

Local government is in a unique position to help prevent skin cancer in communities by identifying it as a public health issue and addressing sun protection within council policies, strategic plans and within council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

1. Shade and Skin Cancer Prevention in Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans

A desk top review of all 79 Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans (MPHWP) in Victoria showed the following:

Shade and Skin Cancer Prevention in Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans



Shade/UV protection

Seventeen MPHWP identified a range of shade/UV protection actions specific to their municipality. Actions include planting shade trees; upgrading and installing shade infrastructure; developing, implementing and/or reviewing shade policies.

A further four plans made reference to shade, while another four identified actions to increase tree cover across the municipality for other health outcomes, such as reducing heat stress or recycling stormwater.

Skin cancer prevention

Four MPHWP have identified skin cancer prevention actions specific to their municipality. These include actions such as developing and implementing local policies, and creating safe environments.

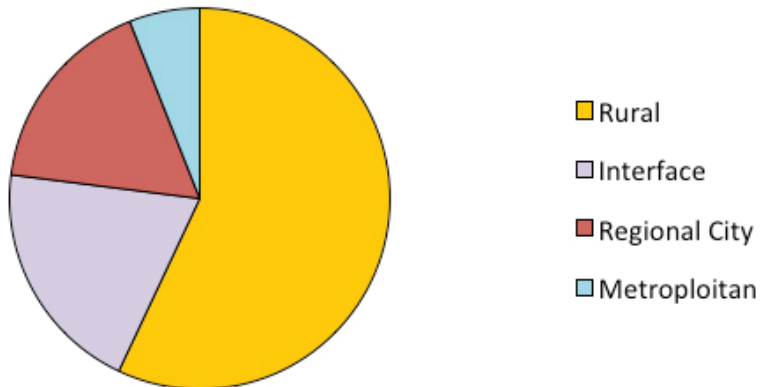
A further 18 plans make reference to either the State Public Health and Wellbeing Plan or the Skin Cancer Prevention Framework.

2. Findings from Local Government Skin Cancer Prevention Survey 2015

In September 2015 the MAV sent a survey to all 78 of its member councils seeking information on a range of skin cancer prevention activities, including shade provision. The MAV received 30 responses from:

- 17 rural (57% of responding councils)
- 5 regional city (17% of responding councils)
- 6 interface (20% of responding councils)
- 2 metropolitan (6% of responding councils)

Respondents by council type



UV Protection Policy For Employees

Eighteen respondents (60%) have a dedicated UV Protection Policy for employees. The survey identified a wide range of avenues adopted by councils to help protect their employees from excessive UV radiation inn the absence of a dedicated policy. These include:

- Induction and education sessions
- Reviewing personal protective equipment
- Uniform policies and procedures
- Policies and procedures for specific sites and activities
- Annual skin checks

Dedicated Shade Policy

Two respondents have a dedicated shade policy. These policies cover actions such as:

- Education and promotion campaigns for staff and the public
- Planning applications with outdoor commercial/industrial activities to include shade plans
- Systematic approaches to increase/improve shade provision at council-owned facilities
- Portable shade provision at council events.

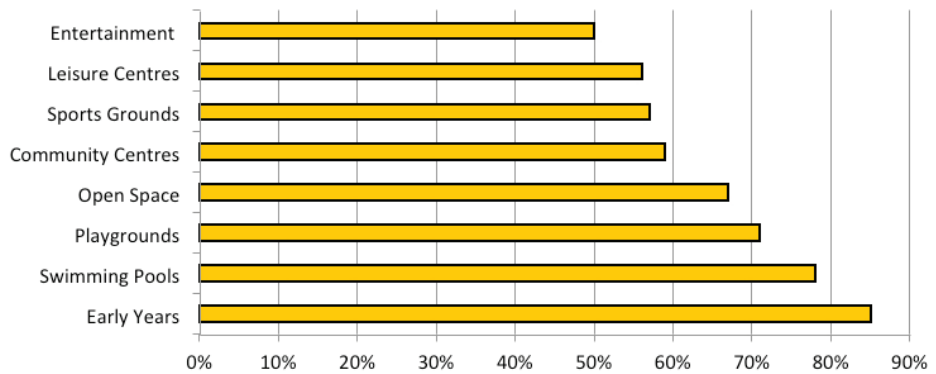
Other responding councils address shade in open space or playground strategies and Early Years policies.



Planning and Designing Spaces

Local government can help the community to limit their exposure to UVR when in public areas by incorporating shade into the planning and design of spaces.

Shade always considered when planning and designing public spaces



The majority of responding councils (85%) always consider shade when planning and designing early years centres. This can be attributed to requirements for shade in the National Quality Framework.

Over three quarters (78%) always consider shade when planning and designing swimming pools and aquatic centres. Councils recognise these as high risk areas due to the time of year people generally visit swimming pools, the length of stay and skin exposure to UVR.

Shade is always considered by 71 per cent of councils when planning and designing playgrounds.

Two thirds of councils always consider shade when planning and designing open space and parklands.

Fifty nine percent of councils always consider shade when planning and designing community centres. Almost the same number (57%) always consider shade at sports grounds and pavilions, and (56%) when planning and designing leisure centres.

Half of all councils (50%) always consider shade when planning and designing entertainment/recreation spaces.

Ability to Deliver Shade

A council's ability to provide shade is affected by a variety of factors. A lack of resources is the most common impediment to providing shade (70% of responding councils). This is followed by maintenance concerns (57% of responding councils). An absence of policy direction affects shade provision in 37 per cent of responding councils. Concerns around vandalism of shade structures is an impediment to shade provision in one third (33%) of responding councils. Access to knowledge or expertise is a factor in 10 per cent of responding councils.

Factors affecting Local Government's ability to provide shade.

