

Shade provision: Suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements*

INTRODUCTION

The text below is example text that could be used by NSW councils in the preparation of their Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPSs), required to be produced by each council under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act.¹

The text specifically relates to the provision of well-designed shade, from the perspective of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Shade Working Group, under the [NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy](#).²

The text will need to be considered in context with the remainder of the LSPS, particularly its structure, and its inclusion of other items relating to healthy built environments.

The text is designed to be placed under the following headings within the LSPS – headings as provided by the NSW Department of Planning's [Example LSPS, February 2019](#):³

- Theme
- Planning Priority
- Rationale
- Council will
- Actions

Example text is provided in *italics* below.

EXAMPLE TEXT

Theme

Note that the NSW Department of Planning's [Example LSPS, February 2019](#) does not contain an explicit theme relating directly to the design of healthy built environments. The themes provided in the Example LSPS are only suggestions for councils, and the themes most relevant to healthy built environments in that document are 'Thriving Places to Live and Grow' and 'A Sustainable Environment'.

It is suggested that an alternate theme could be:
'Providing Healthy Places to Live, Work and Visit'.

Planning priority

A suggested planning priority that could be placed under one of the above themes is:
'Design and provide places and spaces that are healthy to live in, to work in and to visit'.

This generic planning priority should then incorporate other aspects of the healthy built environment, as explained in the following 'rationale' section.

Rationale

There may be many items included in this section that relate generally to healthy built environments. The following 'rationale' text relates specifically to the provision of shade, written from the perspective of providing well-designed shade for protection from ultraviolet radiation (UV).

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Why is shade important?

Australia has the highest rate of melanoma in the world.⁴ Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia, with 2 in 3 people diagnosed in their lifetime.⁵ UV causes 95% of melanomas and 99% of non-melanoma skin cancers,⁶ making it a highly preventable cancer.

The incidence rate of melanoma in the [insert name] LGA is [insert age-standardised incidence rate] per 100,000. The NSW average melanoma incidence rate is 51.0 per 100,000.⁷ Go to [Cancer Institute NSW Statistics Portal](#) to find melanoma age-standardised incidence rates by LGA.

Well-designed and correctly positioned shade, both natural and built, can reduce UV exposure by up to 75%.⁸

Shade offers a number of benefits for people and the environment and has an increasingly important role to play in mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing heat in urban areas.

The co-benefits of well-designed shade and green spaces include:

Health benefits:^{9, 10}

- Reduced UV exposure and the prevention of skin cancer.
- Improved thermal comfort in times of heat. Evidence shows that trees can reduce temperatures by 8°C.
- Enhanced childhood development.
- Increased recreation and physical activity, and a reduction in obesity and risk of chronic disease.
- Faster healing times and pain tolerance for hospital patients in a room with a view of trees.
- Improvements in mental health and wellbeing, including stress reduction and relaxation, greater happiness, lower rates of anger and depression and improved mental function and concentration.
- Noise reduction.

Environmental benefits:^{9, 10}

- Reduced build-up of heat in urban areas and consequent 'heat island' effects.
- Reduced air pollution.
- Reduced water evaporation, soil erosion, and storm water run-off.
- Reduced atmospheric carbon.
- Increased animal habitat and maintenance of biodiversity.

Social and economic benefits:^{9, 10}

- Increased social connectivity and sense of community by providing pleasant and aesthetically pleasing places for people to meet, socialise, exercise and rest.
- Reduced neighbourhood aggression, violence and crime.
- Street trees can help define or preserve the culture and history of a place.
- Improved thermal efficiency of buildings through shading and energy savings of up to 12-15%.
- Increased land and property values. Just one tree can increase the value of a property by approximately \$5,000.
- Opportunity to reduce socioeconomic and health inequities, which have been shown to be smaller in green areas.

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It is likely that [insert name] LGA will experience more frequent, longer and more extreme periods of uncomfortable summertime heat and heat wave events in the future. The provision of quality shade throughout the LGA will be one of the most cost-effective ways to address this situation in the long term, and has the co-benefit of protecting us from UV exposure.

Natural and built shade can be easily included in planning processes for developments, particularly in urban areas. Well-designed shade, effectively planned and correctly positioned, can also alleviate concerns about needing to remove or modify trees to address engineering, wiring or maintenance issues.

What is well-designed shade?

Well-designed shade uses a combination of natural and built shade to provide protection from UV radiation where it is needed, at the right time of day and at the right time of year.

The latest [Guidelines to Shade](#) from Cancer Council NSW¹¹ is a practical tool to aid LGA's in the design of quality shade.

In a playground setting, the [Everyone Can Play Guideline](#) from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment¹² provides a set of design principals and best practice recommendations to develop inclusive playspaces which provide well-designed shade for the comfort and protection of children and carers.

Good design is NSW Government policy, as described in [Better Placed](#) from the Government Architect NSW¹³, which outlines an integrated design policy for the built environment in NSW.

Council will

Suggested text for this section is:

- 1. Consider the provision of well-designed shade, both natural and built, in the provision of all public infrastructure, from large developments such as major recreation facilities, public buildings and town centre upgrades, to the smallest public domain improvements such as bus shelters.*
- 2. Encourage the provision of well-designed shade in all private developments, particularly recreation facilities and those that adjoin public places, such as commercial developments.*
- 3. Consider the co-benefits of shade in all decisions about infrastructure provision and maintenance.*

Actions

Suggested text for this section is:

- 1. Council's [insert relevant name] Development Control Plan will be reviewed to:*
 - a) incorporate design considerations regarding the provision of well-designed shade, with reference to the latest shade guidelines.⁹;*
 - b) require well-designed shade in any private buildings or developments that adjoin public places that are likely to have significant visitation (e.g. high pedestrian traffic or people visiting or pausing in public spaces);*
 - c) require the provision of well-designed shade in recreation facilities;*
 - d) require the provision of well-designed shade in the design of any public infrastructure;*
 - e) require the consideration of the benefits of shade in any application to remove trees or vegetation currently providing significant shade and communicate to residents the benefits of shade; and*

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- f) *encourage the provision of well-chosen and well-placed street trees in residential or public domain developments.*
2. *Council's Engineering Design specifications [insert relevant document name] will be updated to include specifications for the provision of well-designed shade.*
 3. *Council will prioritise well-designed shade in its provision of new and upgraded public infrastructure and spaces.*
 4. *Council will consider retrofitting current public infrastructure and spaces to include well-designed shade.*

REFERENCES

1. NSW Government Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203
<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/1979/203>
2. *NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy*, Cancer Institute NSW. Sydney, 2017.
Available from: <https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/nsw-skin-cancer-strategy>
3. NSW Planning Portal, Guide to the updated Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Part 3 Strategic Planning, Key documents and FAQs
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Environmental-Planning-and-Assessment-Act-updated/Guide-to-the-updated-Environmental-Planning-and-Assessment-Act-1979/Part-3-Strategic-planning/Key-documents-and-FAQs>
4. International Agency for Research on Cancer. Estimated number of new cases in 2018, melanoma of skin, both sexes, all ages [Internet]. Global Cancer Observatory, Cancer Today 2018 [20 June 2019]. Available from: https://gco.iarc.fr/today/online-analysis-table?v=2018&mode=population&mode_population=countries&population=900&populations=554&key=asr&sex=0&cancer=16&type=0&statistic=5&prevalence=0&population_group=18&ages_group%5B%5D=0&ages_group%5B%5D=17&nb_items=5&group_cancer=1&include_nmssc=1&include_nmssc_other=0#collapse-group-0-5
5. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2016. *Skin cancer in Australia*. Cat. no. CAN 96. Canberra: AIHW.
6. Armstrong BK, Kricger A. 1993. How much melanoma is caused by sun exposure? *Melanoma Research* 3(6):395-401.
7. Cancer Institute NSW Statistics Portal [https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/cancer-statistics-nsw#//](https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/cancer-statistics-nsw#/)
8. Parsons, P., Neale, R., Wolski, P. & Green, A. 1998, 'The shady side of solar protection', *Medical Journal of Australia*, 168: 327-330.
9. Davern, M., Farrar, A., Kendal, D., and Giles-Corti, B. 2016. *Quality Green Space Supporting Health, Wellbeing and Biodiversity: A Literature Review*. Report prepared for the Heart Foundation, SA Health, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Office for Recreation and Sport, and Local Government Association (SA). University of Melbourne: Victoria. Available from: http://www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/images/uploads/Green_Spaces_Evidence_Review_-_FINAL_website.pdf
10. *Five million trees for Greater Sydney. Local Government Grant Program*. Department of Planning and Environment, Sydney, 2018. Available from: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/Policy-and-legislation/Open-Space-and-Parklands/five-million-trees-for-greater-sydney-guidelines-2018-11-07.pdf>

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11. *Guidelines to Shade*, Cancer Council NSW. Sydney, 2013. Available from: https://www.cancercouncil.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Guidelines_to_shade_WEB2.pdf
12. *Everyone can play guideline*, Office of Open Space and Parklands, Department of Planning, NSW Government. Sydney, 2019. Available from: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/everyone-can-play-guideline-2019-02-20.pdf>
13. *Better Placed: an integrated design policy for the built environment of New South Wales*. Government Architects NSW. Sydney 2017. Available from: <https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/resources/ga/media/files/ga/strategy-documents/better-placed-a-strategic-design-policy-for-the-built-environment-of-new-south-wales-2017.pdf>

OTHER RESOURCES

- <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/local-government> - a range of resources to assist councils in providing well-designed shade. Based on Victorian examples, but can be easily adapted to NSW.
- <https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/shade-and-uv> - Shade case study examples by Cancer Institute NSW
- http://www.lowcarbonlivingcrc.com.au/sites/all/files/publications_file_attachments/rp2024_guide_to_urban_cooling_strategies_2017_web.pdf Osmond, P., and Sharifi, E., 2017: *Guide to Urban Cooling Strategies*. Low Carbon Living CRC.

CONTACT DETAILS / MORE INFORMATION

- NSW Shade Working Group email: CINSW-SkinCancerPrevention@health.nsw.gov.au
- Cancer Council NSW website: www.cancercouncil.com.au/cancer-prevention/sun-protection/
- Cancer Institute NSW website: www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/shade-and-uv

This information is based on available evidence at the time of review.
It can be copied for distribution.
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For further information contact the NSW Shade Working Group via email CINSW-SkinCancerPrevention@health.nsw.gov.au or go to <https://www.cancercouncil.com.au/cancer-prevention/sun-protection/shade-and-sun-protection/>

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