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**MOTIONS ON NOTICE****AO123-19 MOTION ON NOTICE - FORESHORE SHADE COVER**

**FILE NO:** 15/5/2  
**PREVIOUS MIN:**

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Councillor Teeny Brumby has given notice that she would move the following motion at this meeting:-

***"THAT Council investigate options of installing additional shade cover on our Foreshore."***

**COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS**

A resident recently contacted me asking if council could please investigate the possibility of installing umbrellas or permanent shade structures on our foreshore.

There are few spots for people to escape the blazing sun on a hot summer's day, especially as the sun's ultra violet rays are very strong in Tasmania. Let's care for our families!

The pictures below are of umbrellas used in Newcastle. Regardless of whether it's a permanent or semi-permanent structure it would be extremely valuable on our foreshore in summer months.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS****Background**

A number of shade opportunities have been provided in the West Beach Precinct in the form of BBQ shelters and the shade structure over the playground.

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The design intent for the precinct was for a flexible space that provides opportunities for individual pursuits as well as space for events or other functions.

The green spaces have purposefully been left unencumbered by structures for such purposes.

### **Legislative Requirements**

Council has no specific obligation to provide shade facilities in its public spaces, however could be taken to task for not providing a range of opportunities for the community to manage their level of sun exposure when using Council facilities and reserves.

### **Policy Considerations**

There would be a range of views within the community as to the nature and extent of shade facilities that should be provided by Council in public spaces based upon their individual level of risk appetite to sun exposure.

Individuals also have a responsibility for managing their levels of exposure to the sun and have access to a variety of means to achieve this.

Council needs to find a balance between providing appropriate shade facilities in public spaces and allowing for exposure to a healthy level of sun light when appropriate.

The variability of the seasons also influences how sun exposure is managed, with permanent shade structures being a potential deterrent to using some spaces in the winter months.

It is also important to note that Council has made the opens spaces available in the West Beach precinct for the conduct of various events and functions and to offer the opportunity to configure the space in a manner desirable for a particular event or activity

Installation of permanent structures may have some impact on the ability of the event spaces to be used as intended.

### **Financial Impact**

The motion seeks officers to investigate the costs associated with additional shade coverage within the West Beach precinct.

To enable an investigation to progress, clarity is required as to the nature of shade infrastructure desired to be provided i.e. permanent, temporary, localised or all areas covered.

Operational costs will be influenced by the level of maintenance required on the infrastructure. Temporary structures would have ongoing costs associated with set up and pack up of the structures.

**Discussion**

The motion on notice seeks for officers to investigate opportunities to provide additional shade within the West Beach precinct.

There would be a range of matters that would need to be considered in such an investigation, including:

- Understanding the level of demand for additional shade facilities.
- Identification of various opportunities for shade provision- permanent and temporary, including capital and operational costs.
- Stakeholder engagement. Stakeholders will include Council staff, Burnie Surf Life Saving Club and other interest groups (based upon past utilisation of the precinct).

Officers note that this Motion on Notice is related to the foreshore beach swings Motion on Notice and recommend this also be referred to workshop, with a view to developing over time, an infrastructure development plan for the West Beach precinct.

It is suggested that should the motion to investigate options be supported, the investigation should be incorporated into a broader review of future infrastructure provision for the West Beach precinct.

**Risk**

Exposure to excessive levels of sunlight (UV radiation) can have a negative impact on a person's health, as does a lack of sunlight exposure.

There will be a range of views in the community as to what is a reasonable level of shade that should be provided in public spaces.

Installation of permanent shade structures on the grass or other open spaces at West Beach may impact on the use of the spaces for events and functions and create some angst in the community.

In the winter months some may see the shade as a disincentive to visit the precinct.

There may also be impacts on the growth cycle of the grass in the grass areas.

Temporary/relocatable facilities provide flexibility but have more significant operational cost implications. Additionally there are risks around vandalism and theft to consider.

**Consultation**

Officers have not consulted with external parties in forming a response to the Motion on Notice.