

## **DEPUTATION – UPGRADE TO GEORGE WELBY PARK - T22/3961**

I am making this deputation in the name and on behalf of the residents of Bateman and the many users of George Welby Park .

As you will be aware a submission has been made to Council to upgrade George Welby park with :

- A shade sail over the current playground,
- A gazebo for shade and shelter,
- A toilet block and
- Noise reducing construct for the surrounding residential areas.

**I will address the need for shade sails and a gazebo.**

George Welby Park has been a traditional ‘meeting area’ for many many years for Bateman residents. I personally have used this park for 40 years!

The park is used morning and evening every day of the year by dog walkers and social gatherings. It is used for dog training schools, basketballers, play dates for children, special events such as the dog Christmas party, birthday parties, BBQs, picnics, exercise, kids playing seasonal sport such as cricket and football, etc etc.

My personal experience in submitting this deputation is that I took my 3year old granddaughter to play on the equipment in September last year. It was a warm day, not hot, but it was sunny. Sophia ran straight to hop onto the rubber swing and immediately screamed and jumped off, (face planting!). I checked her bottom/legs area and they were very red and scalded. I felt the swing and it was burning hot! I can tell you her mother and father were not happy!

Studies have shown that having a properly installed sunshade can reduce temperatures by up to 30 degrees. I am mindful that the State Government last year censured over 40 day care centres for contravening safety rules including children being sunburnt and injured by burning hot play equipment. I am sure that Council would want to avoid any injuries resulting from playground equipment that was too hot or slippery for children to play on and long-term sun damage and skin cancers.

This playground is unusable on warm to hot days as there is no sun protection and on wet days is too wet and dangerously slippery for little children to play on. As to shade from the trees, that does not apply to this playground as there is no shade from the trees that comes over the area.

A visit to a playground is an excellent way for kids to get exercise and enjoy the fresh air, but sun exposure can cause play structures to get hotter as the day progresses. As the temperature

of the equipment increases, kids risk burning their hands, arms, and any other body parts or areas exposed. A quality playground sunshade can help to keep kids and their outdoor play equipment safe.

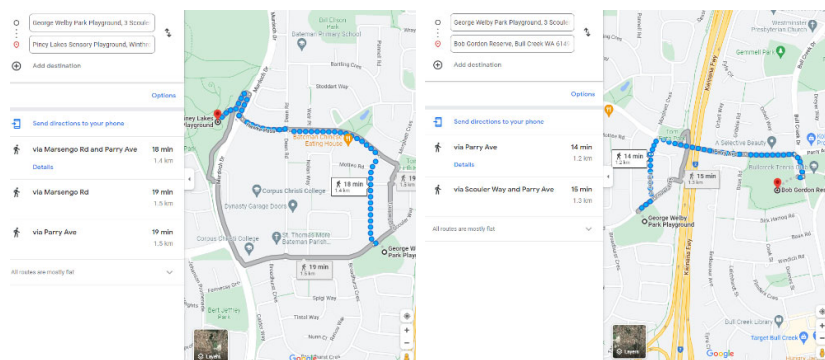
Shade structures are an integral part of our community play areas which ensure not only sun and rain safe play but also protection and longevity of the equipment and help guard the outdoor recreation investment for years to come. It makes sense in our climate to protect the expensive equipment already installed.

Despite the issue of heat and rain, adequate shade in areas where children play outdoors must be provided to minimise exposure to damaging UV radiation, reducing the risk of skin cancer later in life.

Shade provision in the form of a gazebo should also be made available for both users of the play equipment and resident's daily visits to the park. Because of the aforementioned sun and rain exposure reasons, it would be beneficial for the Council to provide this form of shelter. We often must huddle under a tree when walking the dog if the rain starts to fall. Not ideal.

I note the officer's reference to the 'hierarchy' of parks where assets reflect the use and role in the neighbourhood and local area. I understand there needs to be some type of matrix for allocating park funding, however in the case of George Welby Park this shouldn't apply. The usage of this park far outweighs the usage of parks like Somerville Park or Bert Jeffrey. There must be exceptions to the rule. Any time of the day you will see people congregating at George Welby park. By contrast, the Somerville Park, has very light usage at the playground and the gazebo anytime of the day or night and this has installed shade sails. This is probably because of the Piney Lakes Sensory Playground in close proximity to the north which has much more upgraded and user friendly equipment and Bert Jeffrey Park to the south. However, it cannot be suggested that Bateman residents use these parks as it means a long walk and navigating a very busy Murdoch Drive.

I also ask you to note the officer's reference to proximity on page 20 of the Council agenda. The officer states that Piney Lakes and Bob Gordon parks are in close proximity to George Welby Park. I'm not sure how the officer referenced these but according to Google Maps, Piney Lakes playground is a 1.4km and 18min walk and Bob Gordon is a 1.3km and 15min walk from George Welby. By comparison Somerville Park (which I remind you has shade sails and very light usage) is also a 1.3 and 15min walk to Piney Lakes and a 10min and 800meter walk.



The officer also noted that “It is relevant to note that if formal shade was to be installed, the City would generally place this over the playground and not in areas used for organised activities by other parties. The letter made specific mention to parks like John Creaney, Harry Bailey, Hill Park and Central Park which all have gazebos and that one should be provided at George Welby Park.”

I’m not sure what the intention of the officer is here however it would be obvious for the shade sail to be placed over the playground and the Gazebo to be placed in an adjacent area close to BBQs and seating. With a gazebo installed at the park usage would be increased exponentially. During the pandemic, parks and public spaces have become more important than ever providing safe and enjoyable outdoor spaces for gatherings and recreation.

Another comment by the officer “In assessing George Welby Park, it is apparent that the level of investment requested in the multi-signature letter does not meet the criteria”. My question is how is it ‘apparent’, to whom and on what basis? Where is the criteria?

Also the multi signature letter that was submitted some time ago, even though it was apparently not on the ‘correct form’ would still indicate a well utilised and much loved area.

I’m confident the councillors will be reasonable on this very important issue and reverse the recommendation of the planning officer.

Thankyou  
Anne Hall  
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## SHADE IN PLAYSPACES

In Australia, UV radiation levels remain high throughout most of the year. Adequate shade in areas where children play outdoors will minimise unnecessary exposure to UV radiation, and create greater potential to reduce the risk of skin cancer later in life.

Comfortable and effectively shaded play areas promote physical activity and can contribute to long term benefits in addressing a range of important health issues.

Shade is essential for all playspaces. If an area feels hot or is glary it may not be utilised. Shade provision should be made available for both users of the play equipment and carers visiting the playspace.

Shade and sun protection may be achieved in a variety of ways:

- Locate playgrounds adjacent to the shade canopy of trees. Trees provide the best natural shade quality and assist with lowering the temperature of the area.
- Construct purpose built shade structures or sails over the equipment or erect shelters adjacent to equipment as a refuge for users or carers.
- Consideration should be given to the movement of the sun and its effect on the creation of shade. Equipment should be located or shelters constructed to maximise shade during the hottest part of the day.

### Built Shade

Constructed shade systems can be used when natural shade is not available or is being established.

Structures may require the approval of local council prior to being constructed.

Built shade includes:

- Permanent structures that can be erected from a variety of materials. They need to be robust and well maintained.
- Adjustable shade systems such as louvered, cantilevered or retractable umbrellas and canvas awnings allow a flexible use option by modifying the shade throughout the day or season. This type of system may not be suitable for public playspaces.

### Natural Shade

The use of natural shade can be one of the most effective and aesthetically appealing ways of providing shade. The use of vegetation for shade has a number of environmental benefits including:

- less need to use non-renewable resources (used in many building materials)
- energy saved in comparison with built shade systems, which often have high embodied energy
- fewer disposal problems as plants generally act as nutrients during decomposition.

Other environmental benefits can be gained by using indigenous (or local native) plants for natural shade.





## Conduct a Shade Audit

A shade audit is an essential step to ensure your site has adequate shade to protect children and adults from over-exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. A shade audit assesses the quality, location and amount of existing shade and compares that with the usage patterns at an outdoor site (the timing, duration and location of outdoor activities). It determines whether some activities could put people at risk of over-exposure to UV radiation and proposes ways in which any risk can be reduced.

By considering the specific needs of your site, a shade audit will allow you to ensure that children using your outdoor spaces are appropriately and cost-effectively protected from UV radiation by:

- changing the way your site is used by rescheduling and/or relocating activities;
- making better use of your existing shade;
- Only creating new shade if it is really necessary;
- locating shade structures and trees where they are really needed; and
- creating effective shade that really works.

Your shade audit can assist you to:

- demonstrate the need to improve the level of UV protection;
- seek support and funding to carry out a shade project; plan long-term landscaping and capital works to achieve improved shade; and
- prepare a development application, if required.

For more information on conducting a shade audit refer to the Cancer Council WA: The Shade Handbook or visit the Sunsmart website [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au). Alternatively, you can engage a professional shade planner or purchase shade audit software.

## MUST DO's for successful shade outcomes

- **DO** a shade audit - make sure your shade is really needed and is in the correct position.
- **DO** consider whether trees or a built structure will give you the best result.
- **DO** make sure the shade will fall where and when you need it by mapping the shadow projections of the proposed shade structure.
- **DO** ensure that the shading material used offers a minimum 94% UV blockout.
- **DO** think of ways to reduce indirect UV radiation - reducing reflectivity or increasing the shaded area are both good strategies.
- **DO** consider how comfortable your area will be in the cooler months and whether you need to consider 'warm' shade.



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