

Sun Protection Environment Policy

May 2022



Introduction

The purpose of the Sun Protection Environment Policy is to support Horowhenua District Council's commitment to promote positive health outcomes for our community.

The Council recognises that Local Government has an important role in minimising the risk harmful exposure to Ultra Violet Rays (UVR) that is experienced by residents, workers and visitors to the area.

The Horowhenua District Council will contribute to a reduction in the incidence of skin cancer within the Horowhenua by improving shade and other sun protection measures that are appropriate for the site, time of day and season throughout the district.

Policy Objectives

The Council, will work towards achieving the following objectives:

- Provide infrastructure and services to support good health and wellbeing; and safe and accessible recreational facilities.
- Increase the provision of appropriately placed shade at Council-owned parks, gardens, playgrounds, and sporting and recreation facilities.
- Encourage and promote the use of appropriate personal sun protection measures amongst the general public.
- Increase the knowledge of Council employees, community organisations and the public about effective sun protection practices.

Application

The Horowhenua District Council recognises it has a role in providing safe and healthy environments for the people of Horowhenua and a sun protection policy will enhance the social and environmental wellbeing of the district. The Council recognises its role in providing safe and healthy environments for the people of Horowhenua.

The Policy intends to educate the public and send a positive message to the Horowhenua community that when people are outdoors enjoying the many facilities that our district has to offer, exposure to the effects of ultraviolet radiation can be minimised through the provision of adequate shading and sun protection education.

Policy Guidelines

To assist the minimisation of excessive and harmful patterns of UVR exposure, Horowhenua District Council will take action to;

- Encourage contractors and employees to be role models for users of gardens, playgrounds, and sporting and recreation.
- Engage positively with stakeholders to identify those areas identified as high priority by the users of its facilities.

- Promote a SunSmart message at events either hosted or held at Council-owned facilities during the high ultraviolet radiation season.
- Undertake a shade audit prior to organising outdoor events and will provide sun-block, water, and relevant advice to attendees.
- Ensure opportunities to develop shade (natural or built) is considered in planning for new recreational facilities.
- Supply the community information on “Planning a SunSmart Event” online.

References

- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015
- Sunsmart.org.nz