

10 February 2015

Notice of Motion, Cr Oke: Sunlight to public spaces

Motion

That the Future Melbourne Committee requests management to review the adequacy of the “Sunlight to public spaces” local policy and report its findings, and associated recommendations, to this Committee in April 2015.

Background

The “Sunlight to public spaces” local policy in the Melbourne Planning Scheme (clause 22.02) is found at attachment 1.

The policy has not undergone any substantial review since 1999.

One aspect of the policy is the “General” section, which discourages additional shadows on public spaces and privately owned plazas between 11am and 2pm on 22 September. With the wide availability today of advanced shadow modelling technology, and with urban renewal in the densely populated areas of the city requiring ever more complicated assessments of the overshadowing consequences of new developments, it is appropriate to review the adequacy of the ‘September Equinox’ rule in particular, to ensure that the policy’s objectives are being met.

Moved: Cr Oke

22.02

07/04/2008
C92

SUNLIGHT TO PUBLIC SPACES

This policy applies to public spaces such as parks and gardens, squares, streets and lanes, and includes privately owned spaces accessible to the public, such as building forecourts, atria and plazas within the municipality excluding the Docklands Zone.

Policy Basis

Clause 19.03 of the State Planning Policy Framework sets out objectives for a high quality public realm. Clause 21.05-3 of the Municipal Strategic Statement sets out the objectives for public realm quality. A fundamental feature of Melbourne's character, livability, comfort and attractiveness is its ability to offer sunlight to its streets and public spaces at the times of the year when the intensity of pedestrian activity is highest.

Objectives

- To ensure new buildings and works allow good sun penetration to public spaces.
- To ensure that overshadowing from new buildings or works does not result in significant loss of sunlight and diminish the enjoyment of public spaces for pedestrians.
- To achieve a comfortable and enjoyable street environment for pedestrians.
- To protect and where possible increase the level of sunlight to public spaces during the times of the year when the intensity of use is at its highest.

Policy

It is policy that development proposals are assessed against the following standards:

General

- Development should not reduce the amenity of public spaces by casting any additional shadows on public parks and gardens, public squares, major pedestrian routes including streets and lanes (including all streets within the retail core of the Capital City Zone), and privately owned plazas accessible to the public between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm on 22 September.

Yarra River Corridor

- Development in the Capital City Zone and Docklands Zone must not cast a shadow across the south bank of the Yarra River between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm on 22 June.
- Development should not cast a shadow across the north bank of the Yarra River between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm on 22 June.

Federation Square, City Square, Queensbridge Square, State Library Forecourt

- Development should not cast any additional shadows across St Paul's Square, the Plaza and the Atrium which are part of Federation Square, any part of City Square, Queensbridge Square or the State Library forecourt, between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm on 22 June.

Definitions for the Purpose of this Policy

The south bank is the north edge of the existing physical boundary bordering the south side of the river.

The north bank is the south edge of the existing physical boundary bordering the north side of the river.

Policy Reference

Places for People (1994)