



CASE STUDY

Speers Point Swim Centre Shade Structure



THE BRIEF

PROJECT

Speers Point Swim Centre
Shade structure

CLIENT

Alfresco Shade
Lake Macquarie City Council

LOCATION

Speers Point, NSW

PRODUCT

Commercial Heavy 430

As part of a \$684,000 state funding commitment through the Stronger Country Communities Fund, Lake Macquarie City Council has helped co-fund multiple shade structure upgrades across five of its Lake Mac Swim Centres, including a \$300,000 redevelopment of the Speers Point Swim Centre. The upgrade is aimed at improving the amenities for a fast-growing community.

Alfresco Shade were responsible for the end-to-end process of designing, fabricating and installing the massive new shade structures. Due to the location of the project, they mentioned that each area needed “a cover that has to last the distance in a coastal zone”. The large single sail installations also required a monofilament fabric that was able to be tensioned evenly across four corners.



THE SOLUTION

UNLIKE MORE TRADITIONAL SHADE INSTALLATIONS, THE POOL BEING THE FOCAL POINT OF THE PROJECT CHALLENGED ALFRESCO SHADE TO THINK CREATIVELY ABOUT THE STRUCTURES' DESIGN AND INSTALLATION.



The manoeuvrability of boom lifts and risk of heavy machinery cracking the concrete surface within the centre had to be carefully considered.

To combat these challenges, Alfresco Shade developed a unit that was able to be constructed 52m away in a nearby carpark. Then, using a 140-tonne crane to lift each structure into place, the design featured a fully bolted system which enabled the arms to be easily fixed to the columns.

Through consultation with the Gale Pacific team, Alfresco Shade had selected Commercial Heavy 430 architectural shade fabric in Aquatic Blue, which was then rolled down and tensioned accordingly.

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Bang for buck, Commercial Heavy 430 offers a cost-effective shade that gives the end user a 15-year warranty

Tom Westcott, Alfresco Shade

Commercial Heavy has been engineered in Australia specifically to withstand extreme weather conditions on large scale tension structures. Made with a 100% round monofilament yarn and designed using a patented intertwining knit pattern Commercial Heavy 430 offers superior biaxial strength and load bearing performance.

THE RESULT

OVERALL, THE OUTCOME FOR THE SPEARS POINT SWIM CENTRE PROJECT WAS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL.

The clever design and installation techniques enabled Alfresco Shade to complete both structures in under 18 hours and the public was able to quickly get back and enjoy the new facilities.

Since its completion, the complex has been recognised by multiple media sources which include commentary from State Member for Lake Macquarie Greg Piper and Lake Macquarie Mayor Cr Kay Fraser.



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