

Public Spaces Lighting Policy



1. Purpose:

To ensure council lighting of public assets protects the quality of Central Otago night skies.

2. Scope and Principles:

This policy applies to all artificial lighting on Central Otago District Council assets and facilities, and land managed by council. This includes but is not limited to:

- Road and pedestrian lighting – appropriate levels for safe movement of pedestrians, vehicles and cyclists
- Amenity lighting – illuminated signs, functional and/or aesthetic lighting in public precincts, outdoor carparks, parks and open spaces
- Functional lighting – building exterior and workplace lighting, security and public safety lighting, use of sports fields and council facilities.

This policy applies to the installation of both new and replacement lighting. Key principles include:

- Lighting should only illuminate the places where it is needed
- Bulbs will only be as bright as necessary to reasonably achieve their purpose
- Energy efficient light bulbs and fittings will be used
- Adaptive features – such as light shields, timers and dimmers – will be installed to light fittings that are emitting excessive light spill/pollution into the night sky

3. Objectives:

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Encourage and lead in the protection of the region's dark skies from unnecessary light pollution
- Minimize any adverse environmental, financial, social and energy impacts associated with unnecessary or inappropriate lighting
- Reduce energy consumption by promoting efficient outdoor lighting methods
- Put the right amount of light in the right place at the right time and only what light is needed

4. Policy:

Lighting practices will adhere to International Dark-Sky Association's lighting standards where feasible. The following minimum criteria will apply:

4.1 Light shielding and tilting

- Outdoor light fittings will have zero-degree tilt
- Protruding bulbs will be shielded to prevent horizontal glare
- Indoor light fittings installed near glass doors and windows will be shielded and/or tilted into the building. Curtains will be installed where practicable. Lights and fittings that do not comply with this policy will be reviewed with a view to either redesign or replace where possible

4.2 Light intensity and colour

- Warm-white bulbs of 3,000 Kelvin or less will be used. This excludes lighting needed for temporary emergency situations
- Energy-efficient lights, such as light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs, will be fitted

4.3 Light timers and usage

- Light timers and motion activation switches will be used to minimize non-essential energy use and lumen output, particularly between 10:30pm and 5:00am
- Consent from Council's Parks and Recreation Manager may be required to operate amenity lighting for special events on Council property after 10:30pm and before 5.00am for more than two consecutive nights

4.4 Non-compliant lighting

- Where existing lighting fixtures do not meet these requirements, the fixtures will be reviewed with a view to either redesign or replacement

5. Relevant Legislation or Regulations:

- AS/NZS 1158 Lighting for Roads and Public Places
- NZS 4404 Engineering and Subdivision Standards and the Central Otago District Council Addendum,
- International Dark Sky Associations lighting guidelines

6. Document Management Control:

Policy Section:	Infrastructure Services, Planning and Environment
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