

POLICY NAME: STREET LIGHT SHIELDING POLICY

POLICY REF: S01

MEETING ADOPTED: 26 March 2020
Resolution No. 260320/18

POLICY HISTORY: 290916/31; 221112/29



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OBJECTIVE

To provide Council's process in shielding obtrusive street lighting in residential areas.

POLICY

1. Application Assessment and Approval Process

Upon receiving application for street light shielding Council will conduct an assessment and approval process. The assessment process will include a risk assessment and will cover the following elements:

- Category of road
- Vehicle and pedestrian usage of the road
- Location of the street light on the road segment
- Proximity of the street light to the residence in question
- Existence of previous complaints about the light
- Consideration of the neighbouring properties
- Ability to shield the fitting to cut off spill light at the property boundary or just beyond without impacting on the road lighting.

If Council **approves the installation of a shield**, Council will notify the applicant and arrange for the installation.

Where Council **does not approve the installation** of a shield, an applicant will be notified in writing. The applicant may seek a review of the decision by writing to the General Manager. Alternatively, the applicant may, at their own expense, employ a qualified lighting engineer to certify that a shield will not impact the light level required on the roadway under the Australian Standard AS1158. Upon receipt of a copy of the certified design and Council's acceptance of the design, Council will arrange for the installation of the shield.

2. Shield Installation Costs

In all circumstances where Council has approved the application the applicant will be responsible for all costs incurred in installing a street light shield, except when obtrusive lighting has been caused by one of the following:

- A previously installed shield has been removed or damaged.
- Council has installed a new light fitting on an existing or new pole where previously there has been no street light.

Where street light shielding has been approved by Council the type of shielding will be selected by Council from the range of standard shielding options provided by Essential Energy for the particular street light fitting that best suits the conditions.

BACKGROUND

Public street lighting is provided to assist the safe movement of motor vehicles and pedestrians at night and discourage illegal and anti-social behaviour. While a majority of street lights installed in residential areas are accepted for their purpose, complaints have been received about obtrusive light shining into residential properties.

Reasons for new obtrusive lighting complaints may be due to, including but not limited to, the change of ownership of the property, modifications to the residence, replacement of the light fitting and the construction of a new home or units on the site. Since 2001 Council's response has been based on a Council resolution passed in November 2001 that; *"where lighting has been installed to Australian Standards no shading will be put in place to bring the brightness of that light below the Australian Standard"*. Council's 2001 resolution was based primarily on the risk associated with reducing road lighting levels below the requirements of the Australian Standards.

~~During 2011/2012~~ Council has been retrofitting energy efficient street lighting, this has improved lighting levels in some areas and the light level of the new lamps do not degrade over time. Obtrusive light complaints have been received due to the existing shields being removed during the retrofit and not being replaced based on the 2001 resolution.

DEFINITIONS

Obtrusive light	Light entering the residential property causing a nuisance to the resident's lifestyle.
Back spill lighting	The light emanating from the rear of the street light that illuminates areas not intended.
Shielding	A section of steel/aluminium provided by the light fitting manufacturer or purpose made for the fitting, fitted to the rear of the light fitting to prevent light spilling from the rear of the fitting.
Segment	The section of road pertaining to the street light in question.

SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to:

- Community members
- Consultants/Contractors

RELATED DOCUMENTATION

Related documents, policies and legislation:

- Australian Standard AS1158 'Lighting for roads and public spaces'
- NSW Public Lighting Code

REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed every four years.