

Policy

Street Light Shielding

Responsible Manager (Title)	Manager Civil Services		
Adopted by Council	October 2020	Council Minute No. 6c.20.161	
File Reference Number	ECM: 2196559	V1	Due for Review: October 2024
Document(s) this policy Supersedes	Nil		
Community Linkage Plan	2 Infrastructure		
	2.1 We will have communities that are well serviced with appropriate infrastructure		
	2.1.5 Provide safe and effective vehicular and pedestrian networks that balance asset conditions with available resources		

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Street Light Shielding Policy is to provide Council's process in shielding obtrusive street lighting in residential areas in an equitable manner.

2. References

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

3. Background/legislative requirements

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 include but may not be 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.

With traditional street light globes, shields could be retrofitted to the light. However with the change to LED lighting technology this is no longer possible and the entire luminaire must be replaced with a louvered version.

4. Policy statement

Application Assessment and Approval Process

Upon receiving an application for a street light shielding, Council staff will conduct an assessment and approval process. The assessment process will include a risk assessment and will consider 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 staff approve the modification of the light fitting, we will notify the applicant and arrange for the installation. Where the installation is not approved, the 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.

Shield Installation Costs

In all circumstances where a modified street light fitting has been approved 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:

- Council increased the power of the light fitting since the applicant took up residence at the affected address
- 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 and the light spill exceeds the Australian Standards

5. Implementation

Persons wishing to request street light shielding are required to submit an application in writing to Council. The request must clearly identify the street light fitting that is causing the obtrusive lighting and the residence that is affected by the obtrusive light spill. If Council approves the installation of a shield, Council will notify the applicant in writing and arrange for installation.

6. Appeal/objections process

Appeals can be made:

- in writing to the General Manager, or,
- 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