

# Light Nuisance

Fact Sheet

Light can cause a nuisance to neighbours and interfere with their normal daily activities. If severe enough, it can affect their health.

Light can come from numerous sources including security lights, spot lights and flood lights.

For more information email  
[council@paroo.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@paroo.qld.gov.au)  
or phone 07 4655 8400.



In many cases, talking to neighbours may help to prevent or solve problems. Find out what concerns they may have and ask for suggestions about solving any problems. Solutions can often be reached which satisfy everyone.

## Ways to Reduce Light Emissions

- Turn off lights when not in use or required for security purposes and/or consider sensor switches.
- Install lights as far as possible from neighbours and away from sensitive areas, such as bedroom windows.
- Avoid placing the light near a reflective surface and use existing features to hide the light source from view.
- Wherever possible, direct light downwards to illuminate the target area. If there is no alternative to up-lighting, try shields and baffles to help keep spill light to a minimum.
- Some equipment can minimise light spread near, or above, the horizontal. Don't over light, it can cause light pollution and waste energy – which means a higher power bill.
- Keep glare to a minimum by ensuring the main light beam is kept below 70 degrees from horizontal.

## The Law

Council is legally required to enforce the Environmental Protection Act 1994 includes controls for light. If neighbours cannot resolve issues themselves, and complaints are made, council will need to investigate.

If the light is found to be causing a nuisance, Council may issue a direction notice. This notice will detail the offence and establish a timeframe to rectify the problem. Council may also issue an infringement of 15 penalty units for an individual or 75 penalty units for a corporation for non-compliance.

Light issues may also be governed by Council's planning scheme, or other government agencies.

## Complaints to Council

When investigating a light complaint, Council will consider:

- the amount of light being emitted;
- the duration and rate of emission and the light's characteristics and qualities;
- the sensitivity of the environment and the impact that the light has had or may have; and
- views of any other neighbours or complainants.

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