

Light Nuisance

Security lights, spot lights and flood lights, as well as lights from advertising signs and entertainment events can affect others living in the area. It can also impact people's health.

Tips to reduce light pollution

You can lessen the impact of lights by:

- turning off lights when not in use or using sensor switches
- positioning lights away from sensitive areas (e.g. neighbour's bedroom windows)
- directing lights to the target area and using shields to minimise spill light
- to help prevent glare, ensure the light beam is kept below 70 degrees from horizontal
- fitting only the number of light bulbs you need. This will reduce energy wastage too.

I'm being impacted by light pollution. What action can I take?

It's a good idea to make a note of how often you are being negatively impacted by the light source. For example, is this a one-off or is it happening regularly?

If you know the source of the light pollution, consider talking with the person who is responsible to find a solution. They may need some time to take action, so please be understanding and patient.

If you are unable to find a solution, you can lodge a complaint with council.



Council investigates most light-related complaints in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

As part of its investigation, council will consider:

- whether the site has a development approval with any conditions related to light emissions
- the amount of light being emitted
- the duration and rate of light emissions
- environmental sensitivities
- the degree of impact on neighbouring properties
- whether the person responsible has already taken reasonable action to manage light emissions.

Light nuisances may also be regulated by the *Planning Act 2016* and Australian Standards AS/NZS 4282- *Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting* and AS/NZS 1158 *Lighting for Roads and Public Spaces*.



Depending on the outcome of its investigation, council may take further enforcement action.

If you wish to make a complaint to council, you will need to provide:

- your name, address and phone number
- details of the emissions (e.g. source address, dates and times you have been negatively impacted by lights, the duration each time it happens).

Not all light-related complaints are council's responsibility

- Freeway, highway and on and off-ramp lights are regulated by Department of Transport and Main Roads.
- Light from non-devolved ERA's is regulated by the Department of Environment and Science.
- Light from State or Local Government premises or activities is regulated by the Department of Environment and Science.

Lodging a complaint with council

By phone:

1300 307 800

By email:

council@gympie.qld.gov.au

In person:

at one of council's customer contact points

