

HUME CITY PUBLIC LIGHTING POLICY

Policy Reference No:	POL276
File Reference No:	HCC-CM08/387
Strategic Objective:	4.3 Create a connected community through efficient and effective walking, cycling, public transport and car networks.
Date of Adoption:	25 February 2019
Date for Review:	February 2024
Responsible Officer:	Manager Assets
Department:	Assets

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1. POLICY STATEMENT:

To provide public lighting to meet the needs of the community using the most energy efficient lighting available to the appropriate standards for the safe movement of vehicle and pedestrian traffic at night.

2. PURPOSE:

- 2.1 To provide a consistent approach for the provision of public lighting.
- 2.2 To require the use of the most energy efficient lighting available.
- 2.3 To support the safe movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic at night.
- 2.4 To discontinue the use of approved non-standard lighting in new estates.
- 2.5 To replace damaged or end of life approved non-standard lights with standard lights.
- 2.6 To provide a consistent standard lighting style throughout the municipality.

3. SCOPE:

- 3.1 The policy applies to streets and public places including:
 - 3.1.1 New estates.
 - 3.1.2 Existing residential and industrial areas.
 - 3.1.3 Public activity areas.
 - 3.1.4 Rural areas.
 - 3.1.5 Public open space.
 - 3.1.6 Car parks.
 - 3.1.7 VicRoads arterial roads.
- 3.2 Public lighting is not provided for the security of private properties. It is not the role of Council to improve the level of safety within private properties through the provision of additional street lighting.

4. OBJECTIVE:

- 4.1 To provide a consistent approach for the provision of public lighting.
- 4.2 To reduce the future funding liability to Council by discontinuing the use of approved non-standard lighting in new estates.
- 4.3 To reduce the funding liability to Council by replacing damaged and end of life approved non-standard lighting with standard lighting.
- 4.4 To reduce greenhouse emissions through the use of energy efficient lights, renewable energy sources and the avoidance of unnecessary lighting.

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5. BACKGROUND:

5.1 Public Lighting Assets

There are three categories of public lighting assets:

- 5.1.1 Public lighting systems owned and operated by Council that have a separate meter box to record electricity consumption or an alternative source of power.
- 5.1.2 Public lighting systems owned and operated by VicRoads that have a separate meter box to record electricity consumption.
- 5.1.3 Public lighting owned and operated by the Electricity Distribution Company that are non-metered which includes standard and approved non-standard lights. The maintenance service standards for Electricity Distributer operated lighting schemes are set out in the Essential Services Commission '*Public Lighting Code (2005)*'.

5.2 Tariffs and Costs

- 5.2.1 A tariff for the Operation Maintenance and Replacement (OMR) of each non-metered public light is paid by councils to the Electricity Distributor who owns the public lighting assets.
- 5.2.2 The OMR tariff covers the cost for the Electricity Distributer to maintain and replace lights. For areas with underground power this includes standard lights including the supply and installation of the light pole and luminaire.
- 5.2.3 Although Council pays the same tariff for approved non-standard lights they are not supported under the OMR tariff so Council incurs significant additional costs for replacing and maintaining these luminaires and poles.
- 5.2.4 The full cost to supply approved non-standard lighting poles and luminaires when they are damaged or when they have reached the end of their asset life is borne by Council.
- 5.2.5 The Electricity Distributor OMR tariffs are approved by the Australian Energy Regulator. The OMR tariff is currently not contestable and Council must pay this charge to the relevant Electrical Distributor operating in a given area.
- 5.2.6 A tariff for the energy usage of each non-metered public light is paid by councils to the Electricity Retailer. This tariff is contestable and Council is currently party to an agreement through Procurement Australia for the purchase of electricity for street lighting.

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5.2.7 Schedule 7A of the Road Management Act legislation states that the OMR tariffs for lighting on arterial roads under the management of VicRoads are cost shared between VicRoads and the relevant municipal council. VicRoads funds 60% and council funds 40%. This excludes service roads which are the responsibility of the council.

6. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION:

6.1 Street Lighting in New Residential and Industrial Estates

6.1.1 The provision of new public lighting will be in accordance with the AS/NZS 1158 Series – *Lighting for Roads and Public Places*.

6.1.2 Council's Manager Assets will determine the lighting category, sub-category and any special requirements to each road or public space for the design of a public lighting scheme. The public lighting designer shall provide certification and documentation demonstrating compliance of the public lighting scheme with the AS/NZS 1158 series standards.

6.1.3 In addition to AS/NZS 1158 standards new road lighting shall be provided at the following locations:

- (a) At each end of a laneway, but generally not within a laneway.
- (b) At a pedestrian access to a public open space.

6.1.4 New estate street lighting shall be designed taking advantage of the most energy efficient luminaire as approved by the Electricity Distributer. The luminaire shall incorporate smart technology which enables the lamp to be remotely monitored and controlled.

6.1.5 Council will only permit street lights approved by the Electricity Distributor on new estates that are covered by the OMR tariff.

6.1.6 The developer is responsible for the design and installation costs of public lighting in new estates subject to the approval of Council's Manager Assets.

6.2 Transition between New and Existing Residential and Industrial Estates

6.2.1 New estates will need to comply with this policy with the exception that approved non-standard lights will be permitted to transition between an existing estate with approved non-standard lights and the new development to the discretion of Council's Manager Assets.

6.2.2 The transition of an existing street continuing with a new street shall occur at the end of the street or at a defined boundary such as a significant intersection to the discretion of Council's Manager Assets.

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6.3 Street Lighting in Existing Residential and Industrial Areas

- 6.3.1 In areas serviced with timber power poles with overhead or underground supply, lighting shall be provided at the following locations:
- (a) At a maximum spacing of 100 metres.
 - (b) At each intersection.
 - (c) At the end or near the end of court bowl or cul-de-sac.
 - (d) At traffic management devices including roundabouts, road humps and traffic islands.
 - (e) At pedestrian crossing facilities including signalised pedestrian crossings, pedestrian zebra crossings and pedestrian refuges.
 - (f) At each end or near the end of a laneway, but generally not within a laneway.
 - (g) At or near a pedestrian access to a public open space.
- 6.3.2 Approved non-standard poles and luminaires that require replacement will be replaced with a standard pole and luminaire approved by the Electricity Distributor. Immediately abutting properties will be notified of the proposed changes.
- 6.3.3 Approved non-standard luminaires that require replacement, with the pole still serviceable, will be replaced with a standard luminaire approved by the Electricity Distributor.
- 6.3.4 Council's Manager Assets may consider that damaged approved non-standard poles and luminaires be replaced like for like at locations where the street trees have yet to establish to a similar height to the light poles.

6.4 Street Lighting in Public Activity Areas

- 6.4.1 Council may use approved non-standard or alternative non-standard street lighting in prominent high community value areas such as civic spaces, town centres and shopping precincts.
- 6.4.2 Developer requests for approved non-standard lights may be considered by Council's Manager Assets within public activity areas of new subdivision estates. If so, there will be a developer fee of the current replacement cost, including supply and installation, of each non-standard pole and light.
- 6.4.3 Alternative energy efficient non-standard lights owned and operated by Council on a metered supply or alternative power source may be considered by Council's Manager Assets.
- 6.4.4 The provision of new public lighting for public activity areas will be in accordance with the AS/NZS 1158 Series – *Lighting for Roads and Public Places*. Council's Manager Assets will provide the lighting category, sub-category and any special requirements for the design of a public lighting scheme.

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6.5 Street Lighting in Rural Areas

- 6.5.1 For the purposes of this policy an area is considered rural if the property allotment sizes are greater than 4,000 square meters.
- 6.5.2 Street lighting is generally not provided in rural areas.
- 6.5.3 Reflectorized night time delineation devices may be considered at locations to provide guidance to traffic.

6.6 Public Open Space

- 6.6.1 Public open space incorporates active and passive open space.
- 6.6.2 Active open space is land set aside for the primary purpose of formal outdoor sports by the community and lighting of these spaces does not form part of this policy.
- 6.6.3 Passive open space is land set aside for parks, gardens, linear reserves, conservation bushlands, nature reserves and civic spaces that are made available for passive recreation. Public lighting of these spaces is considered within this policy. Public lighting if warranted is installed and maintained by Council on a metered supply or an alternative power source.
- 6.6.4 Parks and gardens is land that has some modifications to support community interaction and includes landscape parklands, formal lawn areas, botanical gardens, playgrounds and pocket parks. Public lighting of parks and gardens including paths will only be considered where the space is used for passive night time recreation. Approval will be through the Capital Works budget process or by Council's Manager Assets.
- 6.6.5 Linear reserves are often along rivers, creeks, drainage easements and utility reserves where off-road paths and trails are provided. Public lighting of linear reserves will generally not be permitted as it may affect wildlife. Travelling through these areas during the night should generally not be encouraged through public lighting due to potential personal safety considerations.
- 6.6.6 Conservation bushlands and nature reserves are primarily set aside to protect and enhance areas with significant environmental or cultural value. No new public lighting is supported along these areas as it may affect wildlife.
- 6.6.7 Civic spaces include land that is set aside for community gathering and events where public lighting is provided and maintained by Council on a metered supply or by alternative power sources.

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6.6.8 Public lighting of pedestrian and cycling paths within public open spaces, but not along rivers or creeks and nature reserves, that have demonstrated or projected high night time usage may be considered by Council's Manager Assets.

6.6.9 The provision of new public lighting for pathways will be in accordance with the AS/NZS 1158 Series – *Lighting for Roads and Public Places*. Council's Manager Assets will provide the lighting category, sub-category and any special requirements for the design of a public lighting scheme.

6.7 Car Parks

6.7.1 Council owned and managed public car parks are to be provided with lighting during the night time hours of operation if the facility associated with the car park operates during the night.

6.7.2 Lighting of car parks are maintained by Council through a metered supply or by alternative power sources.

6.7.3 The provision of new public lighting for car parks will be in accordance with the AS/NZS 1158 Series – *Lighting for Roads and Public Places*. Council's Manger Assets will provide the lighting category, sub-category and any special requirements for the design of the car park public lighting scheme.

6.8 VicRoads Arterial Roads

6.8.1 Public lighting of arterial roads is designed and assessed in accordance with VicRoads *Guidelines for Street Lighting Design* and the AS/NZS 1158 Series – *Lighting for Roads and Public Places*.

6.8.2 Under the Road Management Act the OMR tariff for public lighting of VicRoads arterial roads is funded 60% by VicRoads and 40% by councils.

6.8.3 VicRoads requires the developer of subdivision estates to reimburse in advance VicRoads 60% share for 10 years OMR costs on their arterial roads.

6.8.4 Council will require the developer to reimburse in advance Councils 40% share for 10 years OMR costs on arterial roads.

6.9 Feature Lighting

6.9.1 Council's Manager Assets may approve the use feature lighting of bridges, structures, gateway signs, artwork and other important prominent features. Feature lighting is operated and maintained by Council.

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6.9.2 Developer requests for feature lighting may be considered by Council's Manager Assets within new subdivision estates. If so, there will be a developer fee of the current replacement cost, including supply and installation, of the feature lighting.

7. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Electricity Distributer – Is an organisation which holds a distribution licence under the Electricity Industry Act 2000 for the distribution and supply of electricity. They are responsible for the safe connection of electricity, installation, operation, maintenance and replacement of distributor operated non-metered schemes. Jemena and SP AusNet are the Electricity Distributers that have areas within the Hume municipality.

Electricity Retailer – Is responsible for billing of accounts for electrical usage for Council owned metred schemes and for Electrical Distributer operated non-metered schemes. The energy consumed by public lights on non-metered schemes is linked to the luminaire. AGL is currently the Electricity Retailer within the Hume municipality. The purchase of electricity is contestable and therefore councils are able to choose the Electricity Retailer they use, subject to procurement requirements.

Standard Light - Comprises of a pole, luminaire and fittings that are approved by the Electricity Distributer.

Approved Non-Standard Light – Comprises of a pole, luminaire and fittings that are approved for use by the Electricity Distributer in a public lighting scheme. Typically they include decorative type poles and luminaries. Council is responsible for the cost of supplying of all replacement parts for all Approved Non-Standard Lights in addition to OMR tariffs.

Non-Standard Light – not approved for use the Electricity Distributer on their non-metered network and are owned and maintain by Council on a metered supply.

Public Lighting – means all external lighting located in a road reserve or on other public land.

OMR - Operation Maintenance and Replacement tariff of each non-metered public light paid by councils to the Electricity Distributer.

Renewable Energy Source – greenhouse neutral energy sources including energy sources produced from solar photovoltaic panels, wind turbines and/or the government accredited GreenPower program.

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 7.1 AS/NZS 1158 Series 2005 - Lighting for roads and public places.
- 7.2 Public Lighting Code – Essential Services Commission, Victoria 2005
- 7.2 Road Management Act 2014 – Schedule 7A- Street Lighting
- 7.3 VicRoads - Guidelines for Street Lighting Design
- 7.4 Jemena – Public Lighting Technical Standard JEN PR 0026

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