

## Environmental Nuisance

### Light Nuisance

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. This fact sheet may help you to reduce light impacts and meet legal requirements.

#### The law

Queensland's *Environmental Protection Act* includes controls for light. Council is legally required to enforce these controls. If neighbours cannot resolve issues themselves, and complaints are made, Council will investigate.

If the light is found to be causing a nuisance Council may issue a Direction Notice. It will detail the offence and establish a timeframe to rectify the problem. Substantial fines can be issued for non-compliance.

Light issues may also be governed by Council's Planning Scheme, or other Government agencies.

#### The criteria

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.
- Views of any other neighbours or complainants.
- Other relevant criteria.

#### Be a good neighbour

Talk to neighbours. 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. Consider sensor switches.
- ✓ Locate 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.
- ✓ Keep glare to a minimum. Ensure the main light beam is kept below 70 degrees from horizontal.

For more information, contact Council's Customer Service Centre or visit our website.