



EVERY STAR COUNTS, EVERY LIGHT MATTERS

How to Ask Your Council to Reduce Light Pollution

A guide for residents, community groups, and concerned citizen

You Have a Voice—Use It to Protect the Night

Councils are responsible for managing public lighting, assessing development applications, and setting local policies. That means they have the power to prevent, reduce, or reverse light pollution in your area—if they hear from the community.

Whether you're worried about glare from new developments, light spill into bushland, or the fading of your night sky, there are clear, respectful, and effective ways to engage your local council and make change happen.

Step-by-Step: Making a Light Pollution Request

1. Understand the Problem

START WITH FACTS:

- What type of lighting is the issue? (e.g. unshielded streetlight, overly bright development, public space)
- Who is affected? (residents, wildlife, bushland, coastal areas)
- What standards or guidelines apply? (e.g. AS/NZS 4282, National Light Pollution Guidelines)

Document the concern with photos, location, and timing.

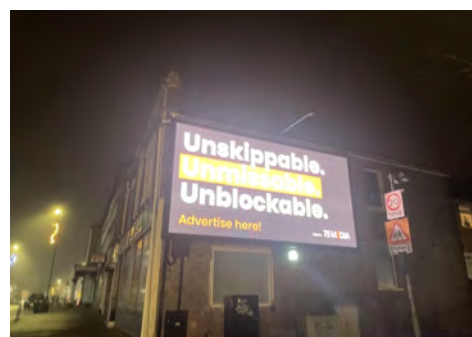
2. Know Your Rights and Leverage Points

YOU CAN REQUEST ACTION BASED ON:

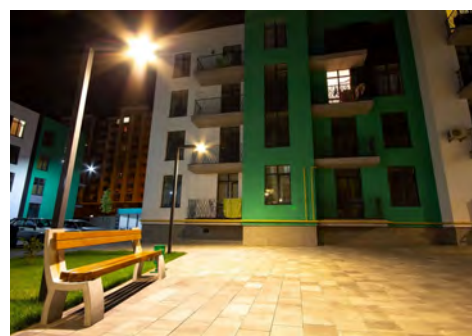
- Residential amenity (through planning and development policies)
- Environmental impact (especially in sensitive zones or near habitat)
- Nuisance or safety concerns (e.g. glare into bedrooms or driver distraction)
- Alignment with standards and guidelines (AS/NZS 4282, National Guidelines)

3. Write a Clear, Constructive Letter

- Introduce yourself and your concern
- Describe the lighting issue and its impact
- Refer to relevant standards or council policies
- Politely request specific action or assessment
- Offer to discuss or provide further information



Good billboards dim at night.



Avoid light spillage into homes.



Lighting affects Bushland creatures.

EXAMPLE REQUESTS MIGHT INCLUDE:

- "Could this streetlight be shielded to reduce glare?"
- "Can a curfew be added to limit overnight lighting in the park?"
- "Is the development lighting compliant with AS/NZS 4282?"

4. Submit Through the Right Channels

SEND YOUR LETTER OR EMAIL TO:

- Council's Environment, Planning or Infrastructure Department
- Local councillors (especially those aligned with sustainability or planning portfolios)
- Online submission portals (for DAs or general enquiries)

Follow up politely if you don't hear back within a reasonable timeframe.

Every star counts. Every light matters.

Be part of a global effort to restore the night.



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Australasian Dark Sky Alliance

www.australasiandarkskyalliance.org/

Ways to Take Action

- Join or Create a Community Group
- Many councils respond better when they hear from multiple people. Consider forming or joining a "Friends of the Night" or dark sky advocacy group.
- Attend a Council Meeting
- Request to speak at a public meeting or submit a written question to raise awareness. Keep your message short, respectful, and solutions focused.
- Get Support from Experts

The Australasian Dark Sky Alliance can provide:

- Template letter to council
- Letters of support
- Technical advice
- Policy templates
- Community engagement resources

