

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, spotlights and flood lights. This fact sheet may help you to reduce light impacts and meet legal requirements.

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.

Your neighbour may not be aware they are impacting negatively on you and a friendly face-to-face conversation may quickly resolve the issue.

If you are planning to install some new external lights, our tips to reduce light emissions will help you to be a good neighbour.

The law

The Queensland Government's Environmental Protection Act 1994 regulates light nuisance offences. Mackay Regional

Council is legally required to enforce these controls.

Council is responsible for investigating light pollution complaints and issuing notices and fines.

The investigating council officer will consider the:

- Amount of light being emitted
- Duration and rate of emission
- Light characteristics and qualities
- Sensitivity of the receiving environment
- Potential impact the light is having on neighbours.

Light nuisance



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.

Ways to reduce light emissions

- Turn off lights when not in use
- Consider sensor switches for lights used for security purposes
- Locate lights as far as possible from neighbours and away from sensitive areas, such as bedroom windows or living areas of neighbouring properties
- 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 phone council on 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529), email council @mackay.qld.gov.au or visit the website mackay.qld.gov.au