

RESIDENTIAL LIGHT NUISANCE LOCAL LAW NO. 10 (PUBLIC HEALTH) 1999

www.logan.qld.gov.au

Light can cause a nuisance to neighbours and interfere with their normal daily activities. It can even affect their health under severe conditions. Light can come from numerous sources including security lights, spot lights and floodlights. This fact sheet may help you to reduce light impacts and meet legal requirements.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Talk to your neighbours to find out what concerns they may have and ask for suggestions about solving any problems. Solutions can often be reached which satisfy everyone.

THE LAW

Logan City Council's local laws include controls for light. If neighbours cannot resolve issues themselves, and complaints are received, Council will investigate.

If the light is found to be causing a nuisance Council may issue a compliance notice. It will detail the offence and establish a timeframe to rectify the problem. Penalty infringement notices (i.e. on-the-spot 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.
- Other relevant criteria.

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 (e.g. trees) to hide the light source from view.

Wherever possible, direct light downwards, to illuminate the target area. If there is not 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 use too much 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 **3412 5318**

Email council@logan.qld.gov.au
