


 WAITAKI
DISTRICT
PLAN
REVIEW

Light (LIGHT)

What are the key issues we need to think about?

Artificial outdoor light has the potential to adversely affect health, wellbeing and public safety. Council has the ability through the District Plan to manage these effects to protect amenity and safety values.

Artificial sky glow adversely affects views of the night sky. Views of the night sky are valued by the community and visitors.



What does it mean for me?

Any lawfully established existing businesses or activities would have what is referred to as 'existing use rights' and could continue to operate unchanged.

Most artificial outdoor lighting would be permitted so long as it complied with certain standards to regulate excessive brightness, light spill and glare. If those standards were not met, a resource consent would be required.

Artificial outdoor lighting adjacent to or within a Light Sensitive Environment would have to meet higher standards and would need a resource consent if the standards could not be met.

What are we suggesting in the Draft District Plan?

In all parts of the district, standards would apply to outdoor artificial light to regulate brightness, light spill and glare. Lighting that did not meet the standards would require a resource consent. The standards would not apply to helicopters, traffic signals, navigation aids or vehicles.

Streetlights would also be subject to the provisions of this chapter. However, it should be noted that existing use rights would apply to the existing streetlight network. In addition to 'existing use rights', both State Highways

and local roads are designated. A designation has the effect of 'trumping' or superseding the provisions of the District Plan.

A number of 'Light Sensitive Environments' have been identified where additional controls would protect these areas from artificial sky glow.

The key objective of the chapter is to recognise the benefits of artificial outdoor lighting and to also maintain health and safety, traffic safety and the values and qualities of the night sky.

Key changes from the current rules

- The current District Plan does not have any rules to regulate artificial outdoor lighting.
- Light Sensitive Environments are being identified to provide more protection from artificial sky glow.

Summary of key rules

Permitted Activities that would not require a resource consent:

- Outdoor artificial light where standards are complied with, and if the light is adjacent to a light sensitive environment, conditions relating to shielding, colour temperature, timers and motion sensors are complied with.

Activities that would require a resource consent:

- Outdoor artificial light where standards are not complied with, or if the light is adjacent to a light sensitive environment, conditions are not all complied with.

Find out more

You can view the full draft chapter on our website

visit www.waitaki.govt.nz/district-plan-review

or scan for more info 

More questions?

If you have any further questions that aren't covered in this document, or on our website, you can email the Planning Team at planreview@waitaki.govt.nz or call the District Plan Review hotline on 03 433 1661 and leave a message.