

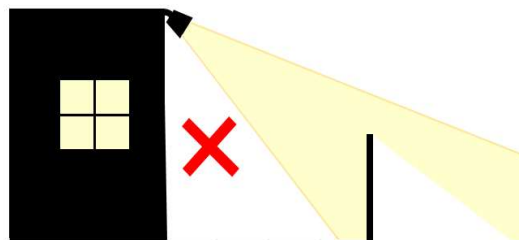
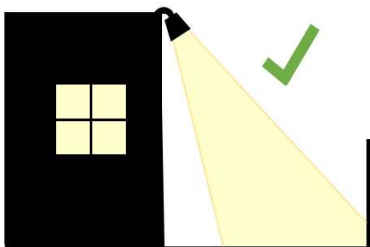
LIGHT NUISANCE

What is a light nuisance?

Environmental nuisance is defined under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (“the Act”) as unreasonable interference or likely interference with an environmental value.

An environmental value is a quality or physical characteristic of the environment that is conducive to ecological health or public amenity or safety.

Lighting must meet Australian Standard (AS4282-1997) and its “fit-for purpose” guidelines.



A beam directed into a neighbouring property may be determined a nuisance, while illumination spillage likely would not. Spotlights and the like used for security and/or amenity, where the *beam is angled to within the property boundary* are generally considered “fit-for-purpose”.

Our responsibilities



Council has the authority to regulate environmental nuisance under the Act.

If satisfied that a light is causing an unreasonable nuisance, and is not considered fit for purpose and compliant with the Australian Standard. Council’s Officers may issue a Direction Notice for alteration to an existing light.

Council must consider the **General Emission** Criteria before issuing a Direction Notice.

Your responsibilities



Ensure any exterior lights meet Australian Standard (AS4282-1997).

Be mindful that any beam of lights are angled to within the property boundary.

General emission criteria

What we consider:

- What type of light?
- How much?
- How long?
- What time did it occur?
- Is it continuous or fluctuating?
- Where is it going?
- Is this expected?
- What impact is it having?
- Who is being impacted?

- Is this a regular occurrence or one off?
- Is it getting worse?
- Are there any mitigations in place.

Reporting an environmental nuisance

Should you believe that a light nuisance is occurring and your environmental values are affected, you may log a Customer Request with Council for investigation. Once a nuisance determination is made, you shall be advised of the outcome. Please note that an environmental nuisance determination must be made from the receptor's point of view; therefore, anonymous customer requests will not be investigated

While details which may identify the origin of each and every Customer Request are protected, in light nuisance cases, the affected person is by nature identifiable. Council therefore strongly encourages residents to discuss light impacts with their neighbours directly, in an attempt to resolve a mutually suitable outcome, prior to involving Council.

You can lodge a request for investigation into a light nuisance by:

- Calling 1300 69 22 47
- Using our [Report a Problem online form](#)
- Report a Problem feature on the [My Cairns](#) app.

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