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| MEDIA RELEASE |
| **Lighting Management Policy**At the recent council meeting held on the 6th of September, the council administrator resolved council updates “The Norfolk Island Regional Council Lighting Management Policy” (Policy dated 13 July 2023 Rev 2) before bringing it to a future council meeting for adoption. This policy was written by an independent consultant voluntarily and presented to Council through the Reserves and Conservation Advisory Committee’s recommendations from their July meeting. The Policy will be reviewed and updated within Council and made available to the community for public comment.The purpose of a Lighting Management Policy is to minimise sky glow, the brightness of the night sky caused by the reflected light scattered from particles in the atmosphere, by implementing good artificial lighting design principles, an initiative which will benefit the following values:* Astronomy and Astrotourism; An increase in Astrotourists will diversify the regional economy, grow tourism and creating jobs,
* Wildlife; reducing impacts on breeding, migratory, and foraging behaviours, protecting Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 listed species,
* Human Health; mitigate impacts on human health including sleep-related disorders, eye function, and hormonal and physiological linked diseases,
* Heritage; enhance the visibility of the night sky for traditional activities including indigenous astronomy and Polynesian navigation,
* Energy consumption; Better planning for light at night will lead to reduced energy consumption, reduced energy costs, and potentially reduced maintenance costs,
* Reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The Policy proposes the adoption of good lighting design principles such as -* Shield lights and light only the area intended, to avoid light spill.
* Use the lowest intensity lighting appropriate for the task.

The Design Principles are explained in detail in the draft Policy which provides different techniques to use light in ways that minimises light spill and works towards achieving the purpose of the Policy. The principles would be applied in designing new outdoor lighting at public and private facilities including buildings, pathways, carparks, open spaces and recreation areas, and signage. It’s anticipated that the Policy will be available for public comment in the coming months. |



Tara Patel
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8st September 2023