

Sports Ground Floodlighting Policy – 2015

EDMRS Objective ID:	A558405	Authority:	Council
Directorate:	Community Service	Responsible Officer:	Manager Sport and Leisure
Policy Type:	Discretionary Policy	Version No:	2
1 st Adopted by Council	27/01/1998 Minute No.	Last Adopted by Council:	23/11/2015 Minute No.1179
Review Period:	4 years	Next Review:	November 2019

1. Purpose

To enable outdoor sports grounds to have safe and appropriate levels of floodlighting in accordance with Council priorities and budget allocation for the provision of floodlighting and in line with contemporary standards.

The aim is to maximise the use of reserves in a safe manner, to minimise unnecessary wear and to ensure that the playing surfaces that require floodlighting can properly accommodate the most effective number of participants in accordance with the lighting requirements for competition or training.

2. Background

There is an increasing demand for improved lighting from sports clubs seeking to maximise the use of sports grounds. This is coupled with new standards for the installation and maintenance of lighting equipment which requires Council to ensure that appropriate equipment is in operation at sporting reserves within available resources.

This Policy recognises that there is an Australian Standard for sports ground floodlighting and Council is working toward meeting the standards subject to resources. This Policy makes provision for Council's on-going requirement to ensure that appropriate lighting equipment is in place at reserves with an expectation that sporting clubs contribute on an equitable basis towards the upgrade and maintenance of the equipment.

Historically sports clubs have implemented lighting developments through their own resources and with financial assistance from Council or from State Government grants. Of the 60 grounds available for seasonal allocation to community teams there are 34 with some degree of floodlighting. More recently Council has been responsible for the installation and maintenance of floodlights at Recreation Reserves.

The following factors have been considered in the development of this Policy:

- the existing floodlighting equipment is ageing

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- there is an increased emphasis on the importance of technical inspections and proper maintenance
- the Australian Standard for sports ground floodlighting sets the requirement for the minimum appropriate levels of illumination
- community based sports clubs have not previously been able to meet the rising costs of new installations and of on-going maintenance in relation to standards
- Council has the legal responsibility to ensure that any equipment installed on Council property as far as practically possible be fit for the purpose and is kept in a safe condition.

3. Scope

This Policy covers the management of sport ground floodlighting on seasonally allocated sports grounds, including ovals, fields and soccer pitches. The Policy does not cover leased sports facilities such as tennis courts, bowls clubs and the hockey centre which have individual lease agreements.

4. Human Rights and Responsibilities Charter – Compatibility Statement

The Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities has been considered in the preparation of this Policy. This Policy is consistent with the Charter and with the recognition of Council's duty of care to all who seek to make use of Council facilities.

5. References

- Long Term Financial Strategy 2015-2020
- The Australian Standard: AS 2560 Sports Lighting
- Community Wellbeing Plan 2014-2017
- Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006
- Supersedes the existing policy: Floodlighting – Recreation & Sporting Facilities 2011
- Sports Facilities Plan 2015
- Activate 2014-2019
- Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI) – Community Sporting Facility Lighting Guide for Australian Rules Football, Football (Soccer) and Netball.

6. Definitions

Sports Ground Floodlighting is characterised by outdoor, weather proof, elevated light fittings established to provide uniformity of illumination across a playing arena in accordance with appropriate standards.

The basic requirement of sports ground floodlighting is that the focus of play, most usually around the position of the ball, is adequately illuminated consistently across the entire field of play in accordance with appropriate standards.

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The level of illumination required for competition is higher than that required for training purposes.

On Greater Dandenong Council properties sports ground floodlighting is used on the seasonally allocated grounds that accommodate the winter sports, such as soccer, rugby league and Australian Rules Football. There is scope for sports ground floodlighting to be installed on non-Council properties, most typically schools, where the access by community based sporting teams is guaranteed by an appropriate shared use agreement.

7. Council Policy

7.1 **Floodlighting** - Council will provide and maintain sports lighting infrastructure at sports reserves to the appropriate standard and in line with the priorities for the provision of floodlighting as practically possible within financial budgeting and within the constraints of the existing infrastructure.

7.2 **Council Manages Infrastructure Installation** - Council will manage the installation of sports ground floodlights to ensure there is a standardised approach to the type and quality of floodlights provided.

Council may consider sports clubs contributing to and/or completing installation of sports ground floodlights under the following conditions where:

- appropriate safety procedures are followed
- clubs can demonstrate that they will meet all of Councils requirements for the provision of the floodlighting infrastructure and all associated works
- Council can approve and monitor the works.

7.3 **Maintenance Responsibility and Associated Costs** - Council is responsible for the maintenance of sports ground floodlighting. Tenant clubs are to report any floodlighting problems. Tenant clubs must not service or alter any aspect of the floodlighting.

To recover a portion of the costs of maintaining sports ground floodlighting there is a requirement for a 50% contribution from sporting clubs where maintenance is carried out. This contribution will be divided among the relevant allocated user groups at the facility receiving maintenance. This will include the cost of replacing lamps that have expired. The individual financial situation of each club will be considered on its merits in relation to maintenance responsibility and associated costs.

The sports ground floodlighting 50% financial contribution to maintenance costs will be reviewed annually by Council when determining the fees and charges that will apply in the Council Budget.

7.4 **Capital Improvement Plan** – As part of the Capital Improvement Program budget development process Council will consider an allocation of capital funding

for the installation of new sports ground lights and the upgrading of the existing equipment in line with priorities.

Priorities for funding are established by:

- a) The Sports Facilities Plan
- b) Where safety and risk management requirements necessitate the provision or maintenance of floodlighting
- c) Where there are no lights or if the existing lights are insufficient
- d) If there is a demonstrable need for additional lights
- e) Where a sport club can demonstrate at least a 50% financial contribution to undertake the improvements.

- 7.5 **Floodlighting Suitable for Competition** – The cost of providing sports ground floodlighting suitable for competition purposes is much higher than the cost of training lights. Preference is given to the provision of training lights in order to benefit the largest possible number of local sports participants. Council recognises that it is necessary to have some selected facilities that are suitable for use at higher levels of competition. These will be informed by the priorities and recommendations contained within the Sports Facilities Plan.
- 7.6 **Community Consultation** - The planning process for the installation of floodlighting may include community consultation and may require Town Planning approval.
- 7.7 **Floodlights are Council Property** - Floodlights installed on Council land remain the property of Council and may not be altered or removed without the prior written approval of Council.
- 7.8 **Clubs Pay for Power** – The sports clubs that use the floodlighting pay the power and power supply costs for sports ground floodlighting. Should multiple users be in tenancy at a facility the associated utility costs will be pro-rated according to allocated usage.
- 7.9 **Monitoring for Sustainability** - The City of Greater Dandenong Sustainable Development Policy sets greenhouse gas emissions targets for Council operations. For monitoring and analyses purposes the clubs, if so requested, shall provide Council with details of the power consumed and the cost.
- 7.10 **Hours of Operation** - Floodlighting may only be used on the days and during the hours specified by Council when a club is allocated the use of facilities or as per the schedules agreed for each leased facility.
- 7.11 **Penalties** – Sports clubs which deliberately breach the requirements of this Policy may be penalised.
Penalties may range from the use of the floodlights being suspended for a defined period to, for severe and/or persistent breaches, losing the use of the sports ground or leased sports facility.



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7.12 **Lighting Audits** – Where required by competition/governing body the process of undertaking lighting certificates to confirm recreation reserve lighting levels will be undertaken by Council. 50% of costs incurred for this process will be recouped by Council from relevant clubs utilising the specified reserve and ground.

8. Related Documents

City of Greater Dandenong Sports Facilities Plan 2015.

Australian Standard: AS 2560 Sports Lighting.