

Light nuisance

Security lights, spot lights and flood lights, as well as lights from advertising signs and entertainment events can affect others living in the area. It can also impact people's health.

The law

Council investigates most light emissions using the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Some sites have a development approval with conditions. Council investigates complaints about these sites using the *Planning Act 2016*.

How to reduce light emissions

You can lessen the impact of lights by:

- Turning off lights when not in use or using sensor switches.
- positioning lights away from sensitive areas (e.g. neighbour's bedroom windows)
- directing lights to the target area and using shields to minimise spill light
- to help prevent glare, ensure the light beam is kept below 70 degrees from horizontal
- fitting only the number of light bulbs you need. This will reduce energy wastage too.

How Council handles complaints

As part of the investigation, Council will consider:

- whether the site has a development approval with any conditions related to light emissions
- the amount of light being emitted
- the duration and rate of light emissions
- environmental sensitivities
- the degree of impact on neighbouring properties
- whether the person responsible has already taken reasonable action to manage light emission

If a light emission is unlawful, Council may issue a fine to the value of 15 penalty units (individual) or 75 penalty units (corporation), or prosecute.

Complaints

In most cases, the best way to resolve a light nuisance issue is through polite and productive communication between yourself and the person causing the light nuisance. If you haven't already spoken with the person about the issue, we strongly recommend you try this approach first.

You could also download the Environmental Nuisance letter from our [website](#), and place it in their letterbox. If you have concerns about approaching or entering communication, or these measures have proven ineffective, you can lodge a complaint with Council by:

- ☎ **Phone:** (07) 5329 6500
- ✉ **Email:** mail@noosa.qld.gov.au
- ♿ **Council Office:** 9 Pelican Street, Tewantin

You will need to provide:

- your name, address and phone number (kept confidential)
- details of the light emission, including source address and the date and time it starts

To help you keep track of the details of the emissions, it is a good idea to fill out a daily log that you can submit with your complaint.

Complaints not investigated by Council

- Freeway, highway and on and off-ramp lights are regulated by [Department of Transport and Main Roads](#).
- Light from non-devolved ERA's is regulated by the [Department of Environment and Science](#).
- Light from State or Local Government premises or activities is regulated by the [Department of Environment and Science](#).