

Public Street Lighting

COUNCIL POLICY NO. 149

1. POLICY PURPOSE

- To provide guidance on the design, installation, and management of public street lighting within the Gannawarra Shire.
- To ensure new public street lighting installed is generally in accordance with relevant Australian Standards, applicable Road Design Guidelines, and applicable best practices for contributing to the sustainability and amenity of the municipality.
- To provide a consistent approach for the provision of public lighting enabling it to support the safe movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic at night.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to internal Council staff and any external contractors with a formal role in the design and management of public lighting in Gannawarra Shire Council.

3. POLICY

Urban areas and rural townships typically contain public lighting for safety due to increased pedestrian activity. Arterial roads, some rural intersections and car parks may also contain lighting. The level of lighting will depend on whether its purpose is for pedestrian or vehicle movements.

The Road Management Act 2004 establishes Council's authority to consider the provision of public lighting in roads and road-related areas – such as carparks. As the landowner / land manager, Council is also authorised to manage public lighting at all Council reserves / land and buildings.

3.1 Public Lighting Assets Ownership

Public lighting in Gannawarra Shire consists of street lighting and a variety of other off-street lighting types in public open spaces. The categories of public lighting assets are as follows:

- Public lighting systems owned and operated by Council typically have a separate meter box to record electricity consumption or an alternative source of power (e.g. solar). Examples include metered lighting in parks, public car parks, reserves, and recreation facilities.
- Public lighting systems owned and operated by VicRoads typically have a separate meter box to record electricity consumption. Such lighting is generally located along the main (arterial) roads.
- Public (street) lighting units owned and operated by the Electricity Distribution Company are non-metered which includes standard and approved non-standard lights. The maintenance service standards for Electricity Distributor operated lighting schemes are set out in the Essential Services Commission "Public Lighting Code (2015)" document.

The Council does not own most street lighting infrastructure and pays (in accordance with the negotiated agreement) for electricity, installation, maintenance, and replacement as part of its on-going responsibility of providing infrastructure and amenities to the community.

3.2 Composition and Classification of Public Lighting Assets

Lighting units have a variety of pole types, each containing the same basic parts. Street lighting may also be attached via brackets to power distribution poles. Main components include (but not limited to):

- Pole - used to mount luminaires onto, poles are typically made of steel, aluminium, wood or concrete.
- Light source – The light source (a lamp or globe in a traditional luminaire, or LED chips) emits light and is located within the luminaire (lantern).
- Luminaire (lantern) – a device that distributes, filters or transforms the light given by a light source.

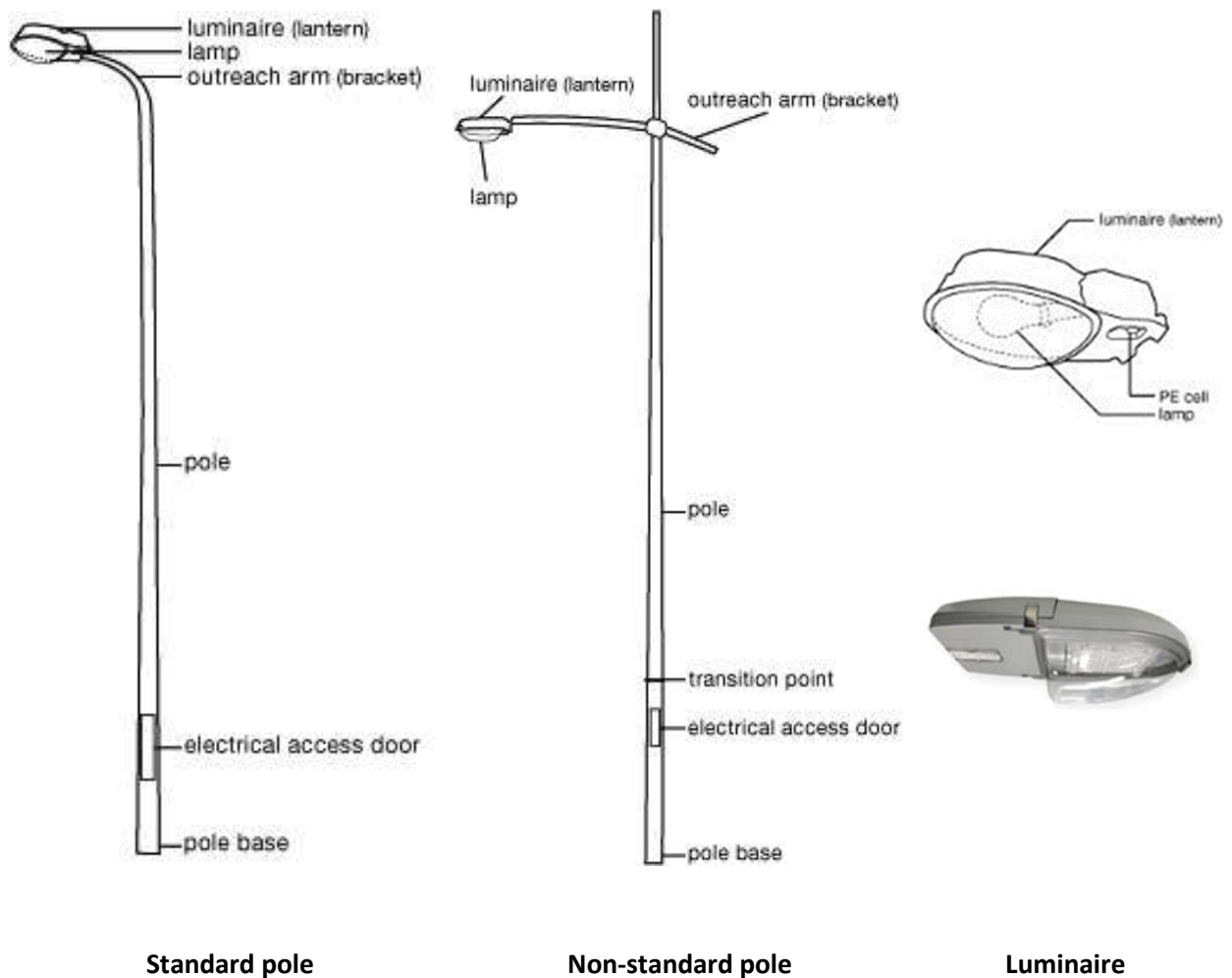


Fig 1. Typical View and Components of Public Lighting Assets

The lighting units can be classified into:

- Standard lighting units (unmetered lighting) – luminaires installed on standard poles. Most street lighting is delivered via the standard lighting units.
- Standard or non-standard lighting units (metered lighting) – lighting units connected to a meter to measure energy taken from the electricity network. This lighting is typical for sports facilities, car parks and open space reserves. Includes decorative lighting units installed in public parks and town centres.
- Aesthetic lighting (metered lighting) – typically not installed for the purposes of maintaining functional lighting levels in an area. Examples of aesthetic lighting may include uplighting or feature lighting.

3.3 Council's Approach to Lighting Installations

For all new urban / township street and public space lighting installations, Gannawarra Shire Council aims to deliver lighting consistent with the current AS/NSZ 1158 Lighting for Roads and Public Spaces standard. Where possible, the provision of public lighting will be in accordance with the lighting categories:

- PR category – for roads in local areas.
- PP category – for pathways.
- PA category – for public activity areas (excluding car park areas).
- PE category – for connecting elements.
- PC category – for outdoor car parks.
- V category – for major traffic routes.

The diagram below shows the summary of the applicable lighting categories for different public space types. In most cases the appropriate lighting category will be determined by the Council staff using the data defining the function and busyness of the road / public space.

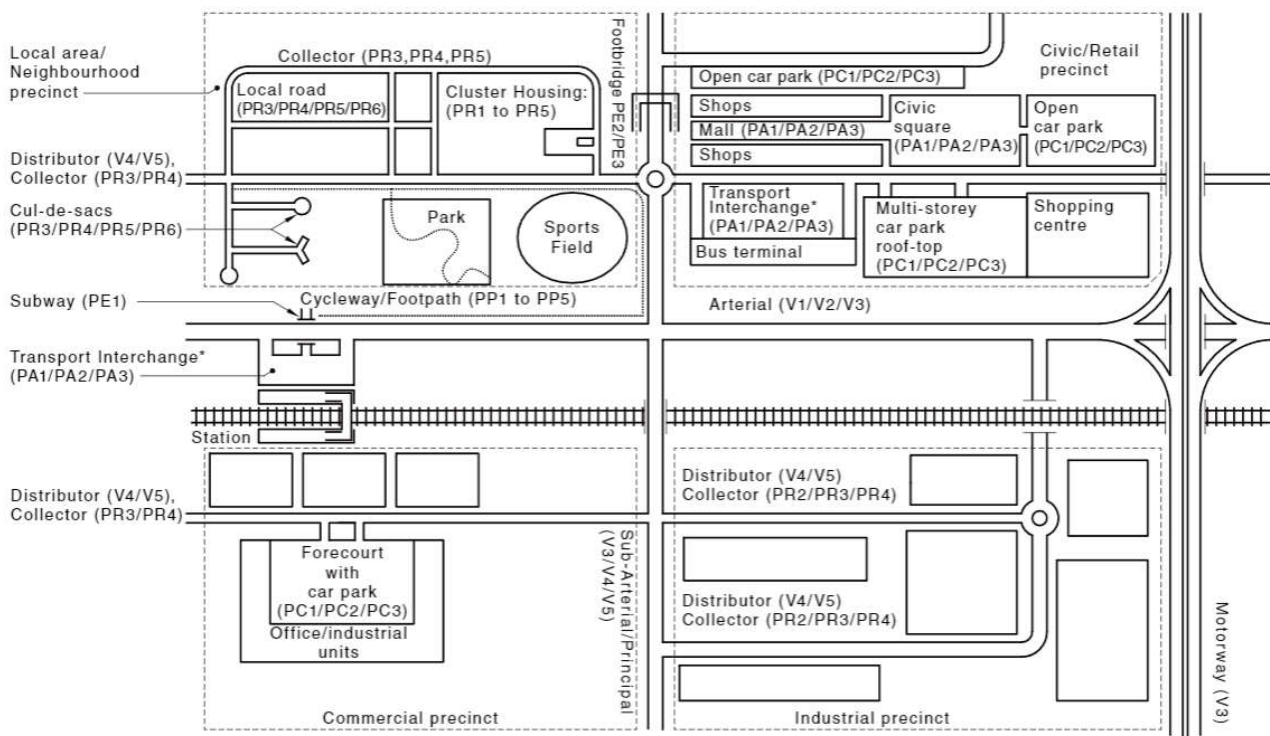


Fig 2. Minimum Lighting Standards Diagram AS/NSZ 1158.3.1:2020

For all existing residential / township areas which don't currently meet the relevant standards, the Council will not be proactively retrofitting lighting systems for economic reasons. The Council may upgrade lighting at its own discretion in scenarios such as (but not limited to): upgrading lighting to enhance access route to a new asset / public facility, or a lighting upgrade based on substantial supporting data confirming the general public need for improved lighting at a location.

For rural intersections lighting, "Flag" lighting at appropriate intersections consisting of a small number of luminaires may be provided to indicate the presence and location of the intersection without providing lighting to any particular category level. The Council will only provide such lighting based on confirmed road safety need and / or crash history, with consideration to power supply availability and funding availability constraints.

4. POLICY REVIEW

Council will review this policy as required but always within two years after a general election of the Council.

At the time it was developed, this policy was compliant with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

5. FURTHER INFORMATION

Members of the public may inspect all Council policies at Gannawarra Shire Council's Kerang and Cohuna Offices, or online at www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au.

Any enquiries in relation to this policy should be directed to the Director Infrastructure and Development on (03) 5450 9333.