

Guide to District Plan lighting rules on Stewart Island/Rakiura

Why do we want to manage lighting on Stewart Island/Rakiura?

Stewart Island/Rakiura is now designated a Dark Sky Sanctuary, which is an internationally recognised status acknowledging 'our Island' as having one of the darkest skies in the world.

This unique status offers many economic, social and environmental benefits to Stewart Island/Rakiura and the wider Southland District. The District Plan is proposed to have a set of lighting rules specific to Stewart Island/Rakiura which seek to protect the unique dark night sky now and into the future.

This brochure provides information on how to meet the District Plan lighting rules.

(Note: Rules apply to new lights and not existing lights.)

The District Plan requires lights to be fully shielded; lightspill to not go above the horizontal plane; outdoor lights to be directed away from adjoining boundaries; and lights to not exceed a prescribed level of brightness.

To enable you to meet these requirements:

- Ensure lights are angled downwards
- Install fully shielded lights
- Install lights with motion sensor detection
- Install warm white lights

Fully shielded lights

The District Plan requires lights to be fully shielded. These are lights with a solid barrier or cap on the top of the fixture which contains the light itself (bulb). By being located underneath the barrier or cap, all light spill will then be directed downwards.

The following are examples of fully shielded light fixtures which can be purchased at major retail outlets.

To source other examples you can product search 'external shielded wall lights' online.



Motion activated downlight



Fully shielded downlight



Fully shielded downlight



Fully shielded downlight



Spotlight



Solar powered wall light



Fully shielded downlight

Ensure lights are angled downwards



Floodlights with asymmetric distribution spread the light to where it is needed and minimise upward light spill.

Image courtesy of Evolve Lighting

The District Plan requires you to install lights which are 'warm white' – also technically referred to as lights which are less than 3000K colour correlated temperature. You can identify the correct coloured lights by looking for 'warm white' written on the label or box and, in some instances, the temperature value will be shown eg 3000K or 2700K.

Here is a diagram showing what different colours of light might look like.

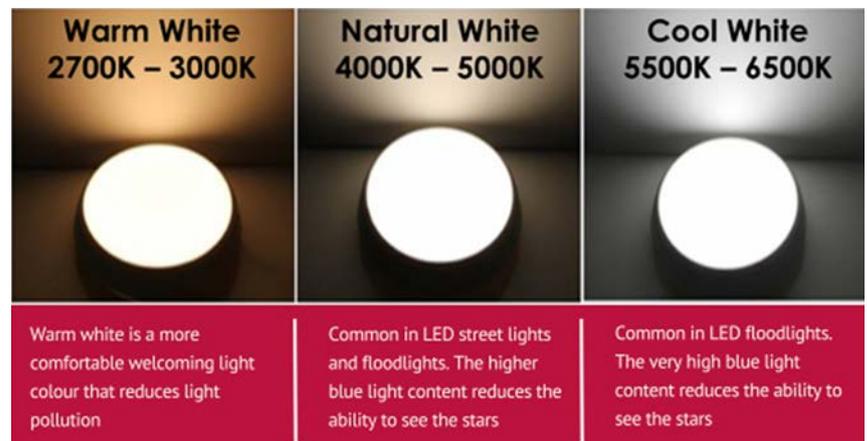


Figure 2: Colour temperature

What if I can't meet the District Plan rules?

If you cannot meet the District Plan rules you will need to apply for a resource consent. When processing your application, Council will consider the impact of your proposal on the environment.

Your resource consent will need the following information, at a minimum, to enable a Council Planner to assess it properly and make a decision on whether or not you can install your chosen lights.

- What type of lights are being installed
- Type of light fixtures (if any) used
- Number of lights to be installed
- Location of the lights on the property or building
- Temperature value reading of the lights to be installed eg 4000K
- Predicted amount of light spill on a site boundary. If applicable, measured using specialist lighting design software

For more general information on applying for a resource consent with Southland District Council go to:

www.southlanddc.govt.nz/assets/resource-consent/02-Application-for-Resource-Consent.pdf

www.southlanddc.govt.nz/my-property/resource-consents/forms/