

**APPENDIX 1: LIGHT**  
**DECISION VERSION 24 July 2025**

*Note: This section is subject to changes proposed through Stage 4 of the District Plan Review. Changes and are shaded as follows to indicate which plan change proposes the deletion or amendment:*

**PC29**

## **Light**

### **Introduction**

Artificial outdoor lighting allows people to undertake a range of activities beyond daylight hours, as well as being used for safety and security purposes. However, if not carefully designed, artificial lighting can be a nuisance to the occupiers and users of adjoining sites and cause adverse safety effects on the transport network.

Outdoor lighting can also adversely affect the ability to view the night sky. Mackenzie District is home to the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve, one of the world's premiere accredited International Dark Sky Reserves. It attracts local, national and international visitors who come to view the dark night sky. The Reserve is also the site of Mt John Observatory, operated for research in astronomy by the University of Canterbury. The maintenance of dark sky is essential for the accreditation of the Reserve to continue, for the continuation of this tourist attraction and for research activities to continue.

Whilst astronomy, considered a scientific discipline, and astrology, considered to be folklore, are two different things in Western thought, they are often intertwined and interdependent in Māori culture. Ngāi Tahu and local rūnanga believe mountains, lakes and sky (the landscape) are interwoven, binding the earth and sky together not just in the physical sense but also in a spiritual sense. In order to remember, make sense of, and pass on precise astronomical knowledge, it was often woven into stories which adopted the mythical nature of astrology.

Māori used astronomy in everyday practices such as food gathering and planting, and it was believed the stars governed their good or bad fortune. Early Māori navigators made use of their understanding of the changing night sky patterns, along with familiarity of natural patterns of clouds, winds, waves, tides and bird movements to navigate their way across the seas and through the land. For Ngāi Tahu and local rūnanga, the stars were an integral part of the journey to Takapō / Lake Tekapo as the patterns resembled specific constellations full of meaning. When Matariki is seen, then game is preserved, for it marked the season when such food supplies were to be procured and preserved in fat for the colder winter months. Therefore, from a Ngāi Tahu and rūnanga perspective, the night sky is an integral part of the natural and cultural landscape.

The provisions for lighting seek to provide for adequate lighting to support activities and provide a safe environment, while protecting the values of the night sky and minimising potential adverse effects beyond the site.

### **Objectives and Policies**

<b>Objectives</b>	
<b>LIGHT-01</b>	<b>Outdoor Lighting</b>
Outdoor lighting allows activities to occur beyond daylight hours and provides safety and security for activities, while: 1. protecting views of the night sky; and	

**APPENDIX 1: LIGHT**  
**DECISION VERSION 24 July 2025**

2. managing light spill to maintain amenity values, health and safety and the safe operation of the transport network.	
<b>Policies</b>	
<b>LIGHT-P1</b>	<b>Managing Outdoor Lighting</b>
Manage the location, design and operation of outdoor lighting to ensure:	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. it does not distract or interfere with the safety of road users; and</li> <li>2. it is compatible with the zone in which any light spill is received.</li> </ol>
<b>LIGHT-P2</b>	<b>Night Sky Darkness</b>
Require outdoor lighting and skylights to minimise, as far as practicable, the potential for upward light spill that would adversely affect the ability to view the night sky.	

**Rules**

<b>LIGHT-R1</b>	<b>Outdoor Lighting Not Specified in LIGHT-R2, LIGHT-R3 or LIGHT-R4</b>	
<b>All Zones</b>	<p><b>Activity Status: PER</b></p> <p><b>Where:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The following outdoor lighting may not be used between 10.00pm and 6.00am:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. searchlights</li> <li>b. floodlighting of an area that is not in use or of an activity that is not in operation.</li> <li>c. outdoor illumination of any public recreational facility</li> <li>d. outside illumination of any building for aesthetic purposes by floodlight</li> <li>e. any outdoor illumination in which light is produced by metal halide, mercury vapour or fluorescent lighting, unless this lighting was installed prior to 1 January 1979 in any Commercial or Residential Zone in Takapō / Lake Tekapo or 1 March 1986 in all other zones.</li> <li>f. flashing lights on self-propelled irrigators.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>And the activity complies with the following standards:</b></p> <p>LIGHT-S1 Direction          LIGHT-S2 Shielding          LIGHT-S3 Colour Temperature          LIGHT-S4 Light Sources</p>	<p><b>Activity status when compliance is not achieved: RDIS</b></p> <p><b>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</b>          LIGHT-MD1</p> <p><b>Activity status when compliance with standard(s) is not achieved:</b> Refer to relevant standard(s).</p>

**APPENDIX 1: LIGHT**  
**DECISION VERSION 24 July 2025**

	LIGHT-S5 Horizontal and Vertical Illuminance	
<b>LIGHT-R2</b>	<b>Security Lights</b>	
<b>All Zones</b>	<b>Activity Status:</b> PER  <b>Where:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Security lights must be fitted and controlled with a motion sensor.</li> </ol> <b>And the activity complies with the following standards:</b> LIGHT-S1 Direction LIGHT-S2 Shielding LIGHT-S4 Light Sources LIGHT-S5 Horizontal and Vertical Illuminance	<b>Activity status when compliance is not achieved:</b> RDIS  <b>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</b> LIGHT-MD1  <b>Activity status when compliance with standard(s) is not achieved:</b> Refer to relevant standard(s).
<b>LIGHT-R3</b>	<b>Skylights</b>	
<b>All Zones</b>	<b>Activity Status:</b> PER  <b>Where:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is no spill of light through the skylight after 10pm.</li> </ol> <i>Note: Compliance with this rule may be achieved through use of a blind or other light covering; or by use of glass that does not emit internal light.</i>	<b>Activity status when compliance is not achieved:</b> RDIS  <b>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</b> LIGHT-MD1
<b>LIGHT-R4</b>	<b>Temporary Outdoor Lighting During Periods of Emergency or Public Risk Likely to Cause Loss of Life, Injury, or Serious Damage to Property</b>	
<b>All Zones</b>	<b>Activity Status:</b> PER	

**Standards**

<b>LIGHT-S1</b>	<b>Direction</b>	<b>Activity Status where compliance not achieved:</b>
<b>All Zones</b>	1. All fixed exterior lighting shall be directed away from any adjacent roads, residential properties and lakes, with the exception of streetlights which may be directed towards the road that they are intended to illuminate.	<b>RDIS</b>  <b>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</b> LIGHT-MD2
<b>LIGHT-S2</b>	<b>Shielding</b>	<b>Activity Status where compliance not achieved:</b>
<b>All Zones</b>	1. All outdoor lighting shall be shielded from above in such a manner that all the light shines below the horizontal.	<b>RDIS</b>  <b>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</b> LIGHT-MD1
<b>LIGHT-S3</b>	<b>Colour Temperature</b>	<b>Activity Status where compliance not achieved:</b>

**APPENDIX 1: LIGHT**  
**DECISION VERSION 24 July 2025**

<b>All Zones</b>	1. The correlated colour temperature of outdoor lighting shall not exceed 3000 K.	<b>RDIS</b>  <b>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</b> LIGHT-MD1
<b>LIGHT-S4</b>	<b>Light Source</b>	<b>Activity Status where compliance not achieved:</b>
<b>All Zones</b>	1. Only Light-emitting diode (LED), low pressure sodium and high pressure sodium light sources shall be used.	<b>RDIS</b>  <b>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</b> LIGHT-MD1
<b>LIGHT-S5</b>	<b>Horizontal and Vertical Illuminance</b>	<b>Activity Status where compliance not achieved:</b>
<b>All Zones</b>	1. The maximum level of light spill from outdoor lighting shall not exceed the horizontal or vertical illuminance levels on any adjoining site in the receiving zone set out in LIGHT – TABLE 1, excluding roads.	<b>RDIS</b>  <b>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</b> LIGHT-MD2

**LIGHT-TABLE 1**

<b>Receiving Zone</b>	<b>2200 to 0600</b>	<b>0600 to 2200</b>
<b>Any Rural Zone</b>	<b>1 lux</b>	<b>5 lux</b>
<b>Any Residential Zone</b>	<b>2 lux</b>	<b>10 lux</b>
<b>Any Recreation or Open Space and Recreation Zone</b>		
<b>Any Special Purpose Zone</b>		
<b>Any Commercial and Mixed Use or Industrial Zone</b>	<b>5 lux</b>	<b>25 lux</b>

**MATTERS OF DISCRETION**

**LIGHT-MD1**

- The individual and cumulative effects on the ability to view the night sky.
- The effectiveness and practicality of any measures proposed to mitigate the effects of light spill.
- Whether the lighting is necessary for operational or functional purposes.

**LIGHT-MD2**

- Whether the lighting is necessary for operational or functional purposes.
- Adverse effects on:
  - the amenity anticipated in the receiving zone;
  - the well-being, health and safety of people; and
  - road user safety.
- The extent to which light spill or glare may impact on activities occurring on an adjoining property.