

Street lighting upgrade



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will the works affect my street on the day?

The changeover of street lights involves a single elevated work platform with two to three crew members. It takes less than 5 minutes to replace a street light so any disruptions to traffic flow in your street should not last long. Cars can remain parked on the street.

Why are the lights being changed?

The old lights are approaching the end of their useful life and need replacing. Over the next three years, most lights will be replaced with more energy efficient lights. This will reduce energy consumption and maintenance costs by around 65% or \$6 million over the life of the assets and save around 26,000 tonnes of greenhouse emissions to 2031, equivalent to removing 6,000 cars from our roads.

How does the level of light compare to the old lights?

The new lights will be similar in brightness to the old lights but the light will spread more evenly along the footpath. Visibility will be improved and colours will look more natural. The new lights might appear brighter to some residents, particularly if the old lights were worn with age. The new lights produce less glare than the old lights.

Why did Council choose these particular lights?

The compact fluorescent lighting system is one of only two available energy efficient lighting options that have been approved by United Energy, the distribution company that owns the lighting infrastructure.

The lights have been tested to ensure they meet relevant Australian Standards for safety and light levels. Trial results in the municipality and across Melbourne have demonstrated that they have superior performance to the existing lights.

The benefits offered by the new lights are:

- Greater uniformity of light across and along the street
- Better colour rendering and visibility
- Less depreciation of the light output over time
- Lower glare

How long do the lights last?

The luminaire (the main body of the light) will last about 20 years. The lamps (or globes) will last at least 4 years and probably longer. The photoelectric cells last 8 years and the poles last around 35 years.

Are the old lights recycled?

Yes. Around 98% of the old lights will be recycled. Glass will be recycled into products such as glass wool insulation for homes. Mercury is distilled and reused in the dental industry to manufacture amalgam. The aluminium body, steel screws and copper wires are collected and end up as ingots used in industry.

Why aren't we changing to LEDs?

LEDs have not been approved in Victoria as a replacement for standard street lights. The only two lights that have been approved are the compact fluorescent (CFL) and the twin-T5. Both represent savings of around 70 per cent from the old 80 watt light.

Who actually owns the lights?

The lights are owned and maintained by energy distribution business CitiPower/Powercore. CitiPower/Powercore who provides electricity and street light services to the western half of Victoria.

How can I get more information about the changeover or removal of streetlights?

If you have any queries please contact Council on 9209 6777.