

**Infrastructure Committee
23 March 2017**

Report for Agenda Item: 1

Department: Property & Infrastructure

Revision of Southern Light Strategy and Technical Specifications

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek adoption of the revised QLDC Southern Light documents.

Recommendation

That the Infrastructure Committee:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Adopt** the Southern Light Strategy and Southern Light Technical Specifications.

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9/03/2017

Background

- 1 QLDC's current lighting strategy was adopted by Council in December 2006. Since the time of adoption, there have been significant advancements in industry best practices and in the technology to support this. QLDC has carried out a review of the 2006 strategy, resulting in an updated strategy, which is supported by a technical specification to facilitate the community and developers to deliver a comprehensive and unified approach to lighting in the district.
- 2 The Southern Light Strategy reflects the intent of the Australian and New Zealand Standard - Lighting for Roads and Public Spaces (AS/NZ 1158) which outlines the performance criteria for road and public space lighting. Schemes can include any or all of three basic aims of: facilitating safe movement, discouraging illegal acts and contributing to the amenity of an area through increased aesthetic appeal.

- 3 These documents are included as attachments A and B to this report. The development of these documents align with the review of the District Plan and have considered the QLDC Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice.

Comment

International Dark Sky Accreditation (IDA)

- 4 The amended Southern Light strategy identifies certain areas of the district which may seek to obtain Dark Sky accreditation. The strategy enables communities to indicate their interest through Annual Plan submissions and Requests For Service. These potential areas of collaboration can be explored using the Better Business Case approach.
- 5 Definition: An IDA International Dark Sky Reserve is a public or private land possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural, heritage and/or public enjoyment. Reserves consist of a core area meeting minimum criteria for sky quality and natural darkness, and a peripheral area that supports dark sky preservation in the core. Reserves are formed through a partnership of multiple land managers who have recognised the value of the natural nighttime environment through regulations and long term planning.
- 6 Technical lighting tutorials were undertaken by the Resource Management Engineering and Property & Infrastructure teams in October 2016. This covered the strategic approach and how to assess compliance with the standards for new developments and subdivisions.
- 7 It should be noted QLDC does not have governance processes to police strategies. The only mechanism for compliance with the strategy is through the consent process using the technical specification.
- 8 It is considered the proposed strategy and technical guidance is robust and will promote the use of appropriate lighting in the district.

Options

- 9 This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the matter as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 10 Option 1 Do nothing – Not adopt revised strategy

Advantages:

- 11 The existing developer community is familiar with the existing strategy.

Disadvantages:

- 12 Perpetuates disparate and inconsistent development and the use of out-of-date technology, not reflecting current best practice.

13 Current feedback from the developer community is that the 2006 strategy is difficult to decipher.

14 Option 2 Adopt as recommended

Advantages:

15 Council's standard will reflect industry best practice and be aligned to the national standard for lighting.

16 Encourages consistent development throughout the district.

17 Utilises modern and efficient materials to assist in reducing on-going maintenance and energy costs.

18 Provides clarity of intent by separating the strategy from technical specifications.

Disadvantages:

19 Developers will be required to adapt to the new strategy

20 This report recommends **Option 2** for addressing the matter as it aligns to best practice and ensures continuous maturity in lighting standards for the district.

Significance and Engagement

21 This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The significance level has been determined by assessment of its importance to the QLDC community interest, consistency with existing policy and strategy and the impact on the Council's capability and capacity. Whilst the documents will have an impact on the wider environment, it will provide best practice and is aligned to the current New Zealand standard. Due to the high level of technical content, targeted consultation with specific stakeholders (internal and external) via workshops, peer reviews, email and direct contact was carried out.

Risk

22 This matter relates to the strategic risk SR1 - Current and future development needs of the community (including environmental protection) and SR6a - Assets critical to service delivery (infrastructure assets), as documented in the Council's risk register. The risk is classed as low. This matter relates to these risks because the likelihood of it occurring is low due to Council's policies and procedures for dealing with potential non-compliance.

23 The purpose of these documents is to mitigate the risk by providing guidance to the developer community when constructing assets that may be vested in Council. The measures include adopting best practice and utilising the latest national standards.

Financial Implications

- 24 Potential reduction in on-going maintenance costs by adopting current national standards as best practice.
- 25 This document does not require additional funding and has no impact on current budgets. Its on-going review of best practice is business as usual.
- 26 One of the strategies of Southern Light is QLDC will show leadership in implementing the objectives of the strategy. Whilst the strategy does not enforce retrofitting to the technical specification, QLDC is commencing a programme of targeted LED street lighting upgrades. This is reflected in the Annual Plan submissions for the next two years.

Council Policies, Strategies and Bylaws

- 27 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
- Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy
 - QLDC Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice
 - The Southern Light Strategy
 - Parks and open Space Strategy 2016
 - The Operative and Proposed District Plan
- 28 The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policy/policies.
- 29 This matter is not directly included in the 10-Year Plan/Annual Plan.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions

- 30 The recommended option:
- Will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses by adopting current national standards and best practice;
 - Can be implemented through current funding under the 10-Year Plan and Annual Plan;
 - Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
 - Would not alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

Consultation: Community Views and Preferences

- 31 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are the developer community, community groups and Council Officers.
- 32 The Council has internally reviewed the documentation with technical experts from the Property and Infrastructure Department and the Planning and Development Department. Workshops were held with external technical experts

as well as Central Otago District Council and NZTA. The documentation was technically and peer reviewed by Council's Chief Engineer and his staff and the Planning and Development /Resource Engineering group. An external technical peer review has been completed.

Attachments

- A Southern Light Part A Strategy
- B Southern Light Part B Technical Specifications