



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Greater Shepparton City Council - Powercor

[www.wattsworkingbetter.com.au](http://www.wattsworkingbetter.com.au)



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### **When will the works be taking place?**

From September 2014 to November 2015

### **When will the works be occurring in my area?**

For a project of this size, specific works schedules are developed on a week-by-week basis. Weather and other contributing factors can result in delays.

### **How will the works affect my street on the day?**

The changeover of a street lights involves a single elevated work platform with two to three crewmembers. It takes less than 5 minutes to replace a street light so any disruptions to traffic flow in your street should not last long. Resident's cars can remain parked on streets.

### **Who is installing the new lights and removing the old ones?**

A company called ETS, Electrical Services will install and remove the lights. They will be liaising with Council and the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance throughout the project.

### **Why did Council choose these particular lights?**

The lighting system is one of only three available energy efficient lighting options that have been approved by distribution business Powercor, the distribution company that owns the lighting infrastructure. The lights have been tested to ensure they meet relevant Australian Standards in regards to safety and light levels. Trial results throughout Victoria have demonstrated that they have superior performance to the existing lights.

The new lights have:

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

### **Why aren't we putting up LEDs?**

Only one type of LED has recently been approved by Powercor region for use in this area. Council developed a financial analysis and has chosen to use energy efficient T5 lights that deliver significant energy savings at a more affordable price than LEDs.

### **Are all street lights being changed?**

Only street lights on residential and Council managed roads are being changed, other major road street lights are owned and managed by Vic Roads.

### **Is there a spike in electricity use when the lights are turned on?**

There is no electricity spike when street lights are turned on. This is similar to the myth regarding residential lights – i.e. that there is such a large spike at the start that if you're leaving the room you should keep lights on. There is no large spike. This is easy to test and prove with simple power monitors.

### **Who makes the lights?**

The lights are made by the company Streetworx and have been approved for use in Australia according to Australian Standard AS1158. They are made in Australia.

### **Who actually owns the lights?**

The lights are owned and maintained by energy distribution business Powercor.

### **How much is this change over costing Council?**

\$2.95 million was received from the Federal Government for nine Councils to undertake the street light change over through the Watts Working Better project. The total project cost for the nine Councils is \$5.17 million.

### **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.

### **Who pays for the electricity cost associated with running street lights?**

Local Councils are responsible for paying the electricity use of street lights, a more energy efficient light should see a reduction in electricity costs.

### **Are the old lights recycled?**

Yes. The recycling of old lights that are taken during the changeover will be recycled by local organisations ConnectGV and Foott Waste. Between 75% and 95% of the old lights are able to be recycled.

### **Who do I contact if I have any enquiries about the works?**

You can visit the Watts Working Better website [www.wattsworkingbetter.com.au](http://www.wattsworkingbetter.com.au) for information on upcoming works and the project.

Alternatively please contact Greater Shepparton City Council on (03) 5832 9700 or e-mail [council@shepparton.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@shepparton.vic.gov.au).

