

IDSW - INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK



DarkSky Victoria

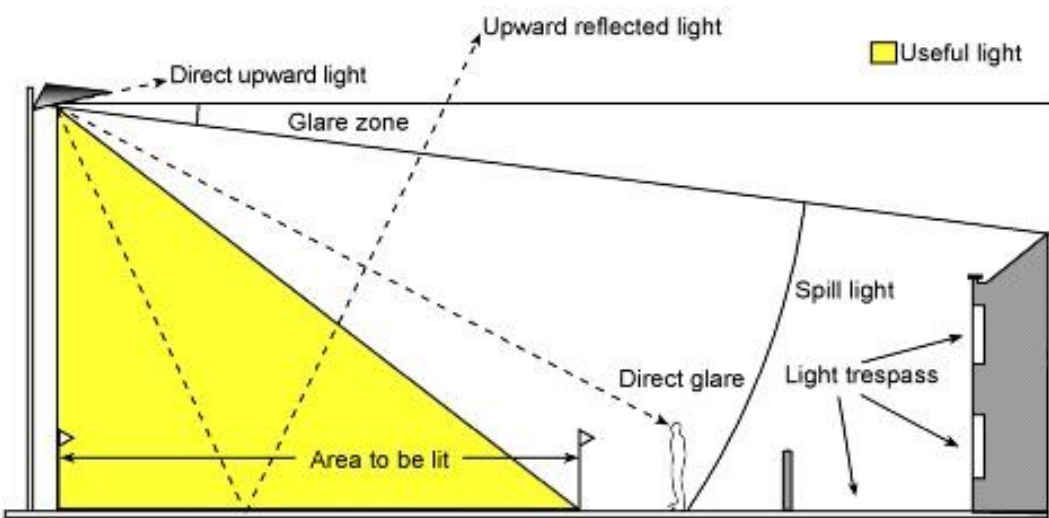
For billions of years, life has evolved with Earth's predictable rhythm of light and dark controlled by the length of the day. In

fact, it's encoded in the DNA of all plants and animals.

Humans have radically disrupted this cycle by lighting up the night. It used to be that when the sun went down, celestial sources like the moon, stars, planets and the Milky Way lit the sky. Life learned to operate under the glow of these objects. For humans and all wildlife including trees and plants, the cycles associated with the natural night sky signals when to eat, sleep, hunt, migrate and even when to reproduce.

What can you do to reduce light pollution?

Be a good neighbour



Bogong Moth: Main food for the Mountain Pigmy Possum, only hibernating marsupial in Australia Credit: J Bailey

Light pollution is often caused by the way light is emitted from lighting equipment. Choosing proper equipment and carefully mounting and aiming it can make a significant difference.

Assess your house or business – how much light is unnecessary?



Grey-headed Flying-Fox
Credit: J Bailey

Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting

Responsible outdoor lighting is	1 Useful	<p>Use light only if it is needed</p> <p>All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats.</p>	
	2 Targeted	<p>Direct light so it falls only where it is needed</p> <p>Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.</p>	
	3 Low Level	<p>Light should be no brighter than necessary</p> <p>Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.</p>	
	4 Controlled	<p>Use light only when it is needed</p> <p>Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.</p>	
	5 Warm-colored	<p>Use warmer color lights where possible</p> <p>Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.</p>	

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