

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO ESTABLISH A DARK SKY COMMUNITY ON THE KŪAOTUNU PENINSULA

WHY?

Our night sky is currently one of the least 'light polluted' in New Zealand, and we need to keep it that way. It's a treasure we all take for granted but is in real danger of being spoiled.

SURELY LIGHT IS GOOD. HOW CAN IT BE 'POLLUTING'?

Artificial light reduces our ability to see the night sky as we are meant to see it. Try spotting the Milky Way in New York!

WHAT IS A DARK SKY COMMUNITY?

An area recognised by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) when standards for levels of light pollution are met.

WILL WE HAVE TO DIM OUR LIGHTS?

No! Almost all the lighting in our area already meets the standards. There may be a few changes needed to some external lights (such as making them point downwards) but there will be a ten year transition period.

OK I'M LISTENING. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We are working with Council to see how outdoor lighting standards can be improved to comply with IDA requirements.

We are also working with communities on our peninsula to explain what is happening and address any concerns. Meetings will be held in each community during the Christmas Holidays.

DOES THIS JUST AFFECT THE KŪAOTUNU PENINSULA?

Initially yes, as it is the easiest place to start.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

A thumbs up! The Thames-Coromandel District Council needs to know that this project has strong community support. Ngāti Hei, the Mayor and others are already on board – with your help we can make this happen.

Early next year we will be asking you to indicate your support by completing a brief online form.

EXAMPLES OF GOOD EXTERNAL LIGHT FITTINGS



EXAMPLES OF BAD EXTERNAL LIGHT FITTINGS



5 PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE OUTDOOR LIGHTING

★ AIM IT DOWNWARDS

Aim the light downwards and shield it so that it shines only where it is needed.

★ KEEP IT LOW

Use the lowest light level needed to achieve the required result.

★ CHOOSE WARM COLOURS

Choose warm white instead of cool white light bulbs.

★ TURN IT OFF

Use timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is dimmed where possible and turned off when not needed.

★ IS IT NECESSARY?

Consider whether reflective paint for paths and steps could replace permanently installed outdoor lighting.

LET'S KEEP THIS!

DARK SKY COMMUNITY PROJECT

Kūaotunu Peninsula

For more information

[www.kuaotunu.nz/
dark-sky-community](http://www.kuaotunu.nz/dark-sky-community)



An initiative of the Kūaotunu
Biosphere Working Group

on behalf of the
Kūaotunu, Ōpito Bay and
Ōtama Ratepayer Associations