

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Lighting upgrade at Castlemaine Botanical Gardens

September 2021

### **Why is Council upgrading the lights at the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens?**

Our community has been advocating for lighting for the entire looped walking, running and cycling track for many years. Council wants to ensure that the path is safe for informal recreation, quiet contemplation and socialising so we are thrilled to see this coming to fruition. The lights will boost safety and amenity for park users in the early mornings and at night.

### **What does the lighting upgrade include?**

The lighting will be installed along the path's western perimeter and along sections running parallel to Froomes Road and Walker Street, providing a well-lit circuit within the gardens. It consists of 31 additional lighting poles that are similar to the ones currently installed along the eastern path. These lights have been approved by Heritage Victoria and utilise energy efficient LED technology.

### **What are the hours of operation for the new lighting?**

The exact timing for operation of the lights is yet to be determined, however we envisage that the lights will be operational for one or two hours after dusk. The operation of the lighting will be monitored.

### **What are the technical specifications of the new lighting?**

The new lights will be LED technology, omitting safe levels of lighting in accordance with the Australian Standard AS/NZS 1158.3.1:2018 level PP3.

The new lights will match the existing lighting within the park, being a lantern mounted within a steel pole. The pole shape and luminaire matches the existing lighting within the park.

The use of solar was dismissed for the following reasons:

- Aesthetically it would have differed from the existing lights
- Existing power is readily available within the Gardens
- Larger foundations would be required for solar vs electric creating a bigger physical footprint for the poles.
- The canopy of the trees along the majority of the path makes it impractical to install solar as the foliage would block the sunlight from reaching the panels. Along other sections of the path where this is less of an issue, the use of solar would have created a need for regular pruning, which would impact the aesthetic of the gardens.

### **Will the new lights impact on the surrounding area? If so, how?**

The proposed lights will be installed within the bounds of the Botanical Gardens and we do not envisage any negative impact to the surrounding area.

The lighting is a luminaire with an asymmetrical lighting distribution designed to light mainly the path with limited light spread within the park. There will be minor limited spill into some of the surrounding areas. The nature of the LED light source means that very little light will enter the night sky with any that does occur being mostly from reflection from the ground.

### **When will the lights be installed?**

It is anticipated that construction will commence in late September 2021, with expected completion date of mid-December 2021.

### **How will the installation affect the availability of the gardens?**

During some stages of the works, there will be minor disruptions and sections of the path will be closed for short periods. During this time, clearly marked detours will be in place for parks users to follow.

### **The Castlemaine Botanical Gardens are heritage-listed. Has approval from Heritage Victoria been sought?**

Council has secured a Heritage Permit with strict conditions to carry out the works, and to ensure there is no negative impact to the trees and buildings in the gardens.

### **How will the lighting upgrades affect the existing fauna within the reserve?**

Light pollution is an issue that affects many fauna species. The lights being installed are within the formal gardens only and not within the adjacent Flora and Fauna Reserve.

Light spill will be limited by focusing shielded light down on the pathways only and be switchable between varying strengths of light output. Operation times will be set to lengthen and increase the light quality around dawn and dusk during the darker heavy user period, facilitating more recreation opportunities for more people in this shared use space.

Council will ensure the right balance is found between all users of the gardens, and the lights are not intended to be used throughout the whole of night.

### **Will existing trees, paths and buildings in the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens be negatively impacted by the works?**

Significant trees, paths and buildings would not be negatively impacted during installation and only minor sections of the path would be unavailable during this time.

### **Who has funded the project?**

The project is being funded by the Victorian Government's Community Crime Prevention Program.

### **Further information**

For more information, contact Raymond Sexton, Senior Project Manager at Mount Alexander Shire Council on 5471 1700 or [r.sexton@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:r.sexton@mountalexander.vic.gov.au).

