



## Newsletter 5 – March '07

RASNZ Dark Skies Group



### Welcome

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the Dark Skies Group of the RASNZ.

It seems to be submissions season. If you are able I would appreciate it if you could put pen to paper or even fingers to keyboard and send off a submission to the following:

### EECA

The Draft New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy is now in submissions stage. This strategy is called "Making it Happen".

The strategy is the Government's proposal for an action plan to cut energy waste, help every New Zealander save money, use energy more efficiently and improve our health and comfort.

The strategy is a 72 page PDF document, available on the web.

<http://www.eeca.govt.nz/about/national-strategy/release-of-draft-nzeecs.html>

A key statement in this draft strategy is ***"There is increasing recognition that New Zealand cannot continue to use energy in the way it has done in the past. It is time for a concerted effort to reduce wastage."***

This is an opportunity for us to make the point that poor lighting practices are wasting energy the length and breadth of NZ.

### Transit NZ

Transit NZ are inviting submissions on their Draft Land Transport Programme (LTP). The Draft LTP can be found at:

- The principal library in your region
- Your local city, district or regional council office
- Transit's website [www.transit.govt.nz](http://www.transit.govt.nz)
- Your nearest Transit regional office
- Transit National Office in Wellington.

Submissions close at noon on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

Our contribution probably best relates to Appendix 2 of the Draft LTP, which lists a number of generic objectives.

**Appendix 2 – Contribution of Generic Projects to NZTS and LTMA Objectives**

### Project Category: Carriageway Lighting

#### Assists Economic Development

- Potential reduction in travel delay between economic nodes (by improving visibility, route definition and reducing accident rates)

#### Assists Safety and Personal Security

- May reduce accidents by poor visibility or route definition
- Increased visibility may lessen perceived threats to personal security for cyclists and vehicle occupants

#### Improves Access & Mobility

- Improves mobility by reducing travel delays
- Improves modal choice by improving conditions for cycling

#### Protects and Promotes Public Health

- Health benefits from increased use of "active" transport methods
- Potential reduction in injury related accidents

#### Ensures Environmental Sustainability

- Reduces the risk of adverse environmental impacts from vehicle crashes
- Opportunities to install energy efficient lighting systems
- Potential reductions in vehicle related emissions by reducing dependency on motor vehicles

#### Alternatives Considered

- Do nothing
- Strategies to reduce speed, traffic volumes and growth e.g. promotion of alternatives existing routes

#### Options Considered

- Variations in lighting design and location

I would suggest that our submissions should highlight that improved visibility can be achieved by using fully shielded energy efficient light fittings which prevent glare and light spill.

Transit NZ, as a means of achieving environmental sustainability, should adopt the Zero Upward Waste Light Ratio guidelines in the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS1158.

Submissions can be sent to:

LTP, Transit New Zealand  
PO Box 5084  
Wellington 6145

Or by email to :  
[LTP@transit.govt.nz](mailto:LTP@transit.govt.nz)

### Dark Sky Park

There is a very good article in the March-April copy of the New Zealand Geographic magazine regarding a proposed Dark Sky Park in the Mackenzie Basin – Lake Tekapo are of Canterbury. The article is by Rebecca Greatrex who has previously written for The Listener about the problem of Light Pollution in New Zealand.

### QLDC Lighting

I was in Kingston and Frankton recently, and spotted some of the Queenstown Lakes District Council's new sky friendly streetlights. They are spending 1 million dollars over the next three years to replace inefficient lighting with energy efficient and sky friendly lights.



Streetlight in Kingston.



Streetlights near turnoff to Frankton Airport  
Note the horizontal arms supporting the fittings.



Close up of Thorn Civic fitting.

If you see any good, or really bad, examples of lighting in your travels please take a photo and send it to me.

### Donations

The RASNZ Treasurer is accepting donations for use by the DarkSkies Group. It is my intention that funds will be held by the RASNZ Treasurer and released on approval of the RASNZ Council. This will ensure proper use of and accountability for the funds. If you wish to contribute you can send a cheque to:

RASNZ Treasurer,  
14 Craigieburn Street  
Darfield 7510  
New Zealand

### Pen Pal

I have been contacted via the RASNZ site by a 41 year old Czech male looking for a Pen Pal.

“Accept greetings from the Czech Republic ! A few days ago I have managed to find your email address when found the lovely web site of the

**Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand**  
**Signatory to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol**  
**Supporter of the International Dark-Sky Association**

RAS. As far as the main reason of the message is concerned I would like to get & keep in correspondence touch with a penpal with similar hobbies to improve my English and discuss astronomy, observing, etc.

I am a married male, 41 yrs old. As for my job, I work as a process engineer for a German Co. producing metal parts for European automotive companies. My hobbies are: hiking, tramping, travelling, sailing & sea navigation, sundials (their theory and construction - on arbitrary oblique planes with rod indicators as well as reflecting dials using mirrors instead and bifilar sundials), astronomy, spherical astronomy and applications, GPS, VLBI, geography, mathematics, horseriding, corresponding, reading and music.

Could you please pass the message text on to someone who goes in for a similar hobby who might be into corresponding if you aren't interested ? Any reply, contact or address would be appreciated.

If you are interested please let me know and I will give you his details.

That's all for now.

Best regards,

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<http://rasnz.org.nz/darkskies/>

