

Submissions to the Public Lighting Code of Practice Review – Consultation Paper

Submissions received through Engage Victoria

From 28 August to 26 September 2025, the commission accepted submissions on our Public Lighting Code of Practice Review – Consultation paper via Engage Victoria. We have used these submissions to inform our final decision.

Date submitted: 9 September 2025

Name: Christopher Lee

Stakeholder/Interest Group: Community member

Question 1. Do you have any concerns regarding the proposed revocation of the Public Lighting Code of Practice? Please elaborate.

I am glad to see public lighting standards being reviewed and incorporated into the Electricity Distribution Code of Practice. I have concerns in that this is an opportunity to do better. Unfortunately, my local distributor (CitiPower) does not do an adequate job maintaining public street lights - case in point is that they are required to maintain lights in Flagstaff Gardens for Melb City Council. However, they do not proactively fix lights but require the public to submit requests when they break. This is onerous and burdensome as it falls to the member of public who cares and knows the framework to lodge complaints. It would be good if there were bounties to encourage requests to fix (like the container deposit scheme) - and if the distributors were proactive, there would not be a need to pay bounties as they would be fixed already. Furthermore, there is one light I cannot get fixed as the distributor has set as "council requested" to not be fixed even though all the City Loop Upgrade works necessitating this delay has been finished months ago.

.Question 2. Are there any other provisions in the Public Lighting Code of Practice we should consider retaining and transferring (other than those already proposed to be)? Please elaborate.

We need strong incentives to hold distributors to account for public lighting - while the old code has requirements for compensation if the nearest street light to your property is not fixed, this was not always followed. I had to lodge complaints to EWOF to get the street light fixed as it exceeded the time frame (and collect the compensation along the way).

Distributors also do not have a good framework for issuing this compensation to those on embedded networks and thus cannot supply an NMI.

Question 3. Would public lighting customers prefer only negotiating specific service standards with distributors, rather than having minimum obligations for distributors (by transferring service standards to the Electricity Distribution Code of Practice)? Please elaborate

NA

Question 4. Do you have any concerns regarding the transferred provisions to the Electricity Distribution Code of Practice starting from 1 January 2026? Please elaborate.

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