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: 2 September 2025

Name: Pratik Parikh

Stakeholder/Interest Group: Community member

Question1. Do you have any concerns regarding the proposed revocation of the Public Lighting Code of Practice? Please elaborate.

I would like to request that public lighting in our area be designed and implemented with a strong focus on sustainability and the protection of our natural environment. Lighting should not negatively impact our dark sites or diminish the visibility of the night sky, which is not only part of our community's identity but also a vital resource for people like me who are passionate about astrophotography.

At present, we often have to travel hundreds of kilometres just to find truly dark skies, and this situation is unacceptable. Furthermore, the majority of Australian animals are nocturnal and rely on natural darkness for their survival, so excessive or continuous artificial lighting poses a serious risk to local wildlife. To support biodiversity, public light poles must also be designed to include nest boxes for native birds, many of which are close to extinction, and provide opportunities for honeybees to establish safe nesting sites.

In addition, I recommend the adoption of smart lighting systems with motion sensors, so that lights are only activated when there is movement nearby. This approach would reduce unnecessary energy use, safeguard wildlife, promote biodiversity, and protect the beauty of our night skies for future generations.

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.

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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

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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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