

## SWITCH TO LED STREET LIGHTING TO MAKE BIG SAVINGS

Dubbo will have whiter and more reliable street lights and make significant long-term financial savings after Council endorsed a Mayoral Minute to convert to smart-enabled LED lighting.

Council has been in discussions with Essential Energy to move away from the current energy-intensive lighting to the newest technology.

The energy provider informed Council it would undertake a bulk lamp replacement in November 2019, making it a logical time to start the conversion process.

“This is a very exciting step for Council. LED lighting is far more energy efficient, more reliable and provides a much whiter light than the current technology,” Councillor Shields said.

“With the smart technology we can adjust the brightness of lighting remotely or use sensors to make lights brighter when people are on the street.

“It also sets us up for the future with the potential to integrate CCTV and speakers, and broadcast Wi-Fi. It would make us one of the most advanced cities in regional NSW.”

Essential Energy has made a proposal to the NSW Government to assist with funding for the deployment of smart-assisted LED lighting across regional NSW. If funding was made available, Council would be required to make minimal financial contribution to such a project.

Essential Energy is waiting for a response from the NSW Government on the success of its proposal.

Based on Council's street light inventory at April 2019, Essential Energy has estimated that a total of 6,566 street lights could be upgraded to LED equivalent luminaires with integrated smart port and associated smart controller, and a further 18 existing LED street lights could be fitted with a smart controller.

The estimated cost if Council is required to fund the project is being finalised but it is expected the upgrades would have a payback period of five to six years based on savings experienced from reduced energy usage.

Once the payback period has been reached, ongoing savings of approximately \$700,000 per annum would be realised.

“This Council is committed to finding ways to reduce costs for the benefit of residents and \$700,000 a year is a substantial saving,” Councillor Shields said.

Council also resolved to seek reimbursement from the NSW Government if Council funds the project and the

Government subsequently provides funding for a replacement program.

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