

Section 32 Report

Part 2

Light

Prepared for the
Proposed Kaipara District Plan

Prior to Notification

28 April 2025

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Kaipara District Council Operative District Plan	KDP
National Planning Standards	NPS
Northland Regional Policy Statement 2016	NRPS
Proposed Kaipara District Plan	PDP
Resource Management Act 1991	RMA
Section 32 of the RMA	s32

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

- 1 This report details the pre-notification evaluation undertaken by Kaipara District Council (**KDC**) in relation to General District-wide Matters – Light for the Proposed Kaipara District Plan (**PDP**). The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 32 of the RMA (**s32**).
- 2 This report should be read in conjunction with the Section 32 Overview Report for the PDP which provides a detailed overview of the statutory context and the process to prepare the PDP.

1.2 Topic Description

- 3 Artificial outdoor lighting has many purposes across multiple activities and zones within the Kaipara District. Artificial outdoor lighting has many positive benefits such as making places and buildings safer at night time, rural, commercial and industrial security, enabling activities outside daylight hours, enabling sports fields to be utilised for extended use, and keeping the land transport network safe.
- 4 However, where artificial outdoor lighting is located adjacent to sensitive activities, light spill has the potential to generate adverse effects on the amenity of areas and on the health, safety and wellbeing of people and communities. While lighting is necessary, light spill needs to be managed where located in proximity to sensitive receiving environments.
- 5 The primary effects associated with artificial outdoor lighting are:
 - a. Light spill or glare that adversely affects the amenity of neighbouring properties or land uses. This includes effects between sites, for example, the effects of lighting for a sports field or stadium on an adjacent residential site. Common adverse effects from artificial lighting include a level of brightness from exterior lighting on external façades, gardens or walls that disturb people's ability to sleep in residential areas.
 - b. A night glow effect on the night sky causing the deterioration of astronomical observations and enjoyment of the night sky. Celestial darkness is particularly important to tangata whenua/mana whenua and their cultural connection to the environment.
 - c. Adverse effects on nocturnal species and significant ecological areas from inappropriate levels of outdoor artificial lighting from developments within the vicinity of these habitat.
 - d. Adverse amenity effects on landscapes or environments that are predominantly dark
 - e. Light spill or glare adversely affecting road users and their safety by impacting drivers' ability to see important information such as traffic safety or directional signs.
- 6 The Operative Kaipara District Plan (**KDP**) currently manages light effects throughout various zone and overlay chapters. The KDP does not include specific objectives and policies on outdoor artificial lighting,

rather it regulates artificial outdoor lighting through permitted activity rules. Where artificial outdoor lighting does not comply with the permitted activity standards and lux levels permitted in a zone, a restricted discretionary activity resource consent is required.

- 7 Under the KDP, Council's discretion is restricted to a limited number of matters, these include any effects on traffic and pedestrian safety and the orientation, strength and design of the lighting proposed. Consequently, the Council cannot currently assess the full range of effects associated with artificial outdoor lighting when lux levels exceed the permitted standards in the KDP, this includes for example, effects on the night sky or any cumulative effect of lighting and glare.
- 8 Since the ODP came into force, the technical standards referenced in the rules for controlling the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting have been updated. Furthermore, the National Planning Standards require that where the following matters are addressed, they must be included in the Light chapter in Part 2 – District-Wide Matters of the District Plan:

32. If provisions for managing light are addressed, they must be located in the Light chapter. These provisions may include:

- a. provisions for light spill and glare (including light spill limits) for different zones, receiving environments or other spatially defined area*
- b. specific requirements for common significant light generating activities.*

1.3 Scale and Significance of the Effects

- 9 The s32 evaluation must contain a level of detail that corresponds to the scale and significance of the environmental, economic, social, and cultural effects anticipated from the implementation of the proposal. In order to determine the scale and significance, the following criteria have been used:

TABLE 1: ASSESSMENT OF SCALE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS		
Criteria	Summary of effects	Evaluation (1 is low and 5 is high)
Reason for change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-year review Required by the National Planning Standards 	2

Degree of shift from status quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor amendments to give effect to the National Planning standards and to better address an existing resource management issue • Clearer direction and framework to manage effects from artificial outdoor lighting 	2
Who and how many will be affected, geographic scale of effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor public interest in new provisions • Light is an issue which effects all activities and is a district-wide issue across all zones • Minor impact on individual properties where there is outdoor lighting • Typically, commercial and recreational landowners and industry groups have a specific interest in lighting 	2
Degree of impact on or interest from Maori	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some degree of interest from Tangata Whenua/Mana Whenua on how artificial lighting may impact the night sky • May help provide security to Tangata Whenua/Mana Whenua on individual sites 	1
Timing and duration of effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	1

Type of effect:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light spill or glare that adversely affects the amenity of neighbouring properties or land uses • A night glow effect on the night sky causing the deterioration of astronomical observations and enjoyment of the night sky. • Adverse effects on nocturnal species and significant ecological areas from inappropriate levels of outdoor artificial lighting from developments within the vicinity of these habitats • Adverse amenity effects on landscapes or environments that are predominantly dark • Light spill or glare adversely affecting road users and their safety by impacting drivers' ability to see important information such as traffic safety or directional signs. • Positive effects of lighting through the provision of increased safety and security • Positive effects on supporting longer business hours and the nighttime economy 	2
Degree of risk or uncertainty:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed provisions are consistent with the National Planning Standards compared to ODP • There is no uncertainty of information • The provisions are consistent with other district plan provisions 	1
Total (out of 35):		11

10 The scale and significance of the effects from the lighting topic are assessed as low overall therefore the level of detail in this evaluation report is appropriate for the level of effects anticipated.

1.4 Summary of advice received from iwi

11 Section 32(4A) requires evaluation reports to summarise all advice concerning the proposal received from iwi authorities under Clauses 3(1)(d) and 4A of Schedule 1 of the RMA. The s32 evaluation reports

must summarise the response to the advice received, including any provisions of the proposal that are intended to give effect to the advice. The table below summarises the consultation undertaken and advice received from iwi authorities in relation to General District Wide Matters – Light.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF ADVICE RECEIVED FROM IWI		
Details of the consultation process	Summary of advice concerning the proposal received from iwi authorities	Summary of the response to the advice received
Te Uri o Hau and Te Roroa - feedback on the Draft District Plan (16 October 2022)	<p>Te Uri o Hau and Te Roroa request LIGHT-R1 be amended to add the following matter of discretion:</p> <p><i>The effects on cultural practices, including visual observation of the night sky.</i></p> <p>Te Uri o Hau and Te Roroa seek this relief to ensure the provisions recognise protection of the night sky and the impact on customary practices of maramataka.</p> <p>Te Uri o Hau and Te Roroa request incorporating policy wording to avoid adverse effects on views of the night sky and intrinsically dark landscapes and request that an upward light ratio be applicable to address sky glow.</p>	<p>Standards control light spill. Objectives and policies are drafted to direct design and location of lights while at the same time protecting amenity values and addressing cumulative effects. The matters of discretion were amended to include “<i>effects on light spill and views of the night sky and intrinsically dark landscapes</i>”. However, it is considered that a matter of discretion for viewing for cultural practices would not be practical.</p>

2. Evaluation of Objectives

2.1 Appropriateness in Terms of Purpose of RMA

- 12 Council must evaluate in accordance with s32 of the RMA the extent to which each objective proposed in the PDP is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA. The following objectives are proposed for General District-wide Matters – Light, the reasons for which are detailed in Table 1:

TABLE 3: S32 ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED OBJECTIVES	
Proposed Objectives - General District-wide Matters – Light	
LIGHT-O1 Design and location of artificial lighting	The design and location of artificial outdoor lighting minimises adverse effects and is compatible with the characteristics and qualities of the surrounding environment.
LIGHT-O2 Supporting amenity values and health and safety	Lighting supports the health and, safety of people and communities and maintains and enhances amenity values.
LIGHT-O3 Artificial outdoor lighting for a range of activities and within the land transport network	Artificial outdoor lighting enables a range of activities in all zones including rural, commercial and recreation activities, as well as supporting a safe transport network.

- 13 Part 2 of the RMA outlines the purpose and principles of the RMA, and Table 2 identifies the relevant sections of Part 2 of the RMA for each of the objectives in General District-wide Matters – Light

TABLE 4: RELEVANCE OF PROPOSED OBJECTIVES WITH PART 2 OF THE RMA				
Proposed Light Objectives				
		LIGHT-O1	LIGHT-O2	LIGHT-O3
	5(2)(c)	✓	✓	✓
	6(a)	✓	✓	✓
	6(b)	✓	✓	✓
	6(c)	✓		
	7(b)			✓
	7(c)	✓	✓	
	7(f)	✓	✓	✓
	8	✓	✓	✓

Section 5 RMA

- 14 The purpose of the RMA is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources, which is defined in section 5(2) as managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way that enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing while achieving the matters set out in clause (a)-(c). In particular, section 5(2)(c) requires adverse effects of activities on the environment be avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- 15 Artificial outdoor lighting can cause adverse effects on the environment including adverse amenity effects on the surrounding environment, effects from light spill on the night sky and intrinsically dark landscapes, cumulative lighting and glare effects and adverse effects on the wellbeing of people and communities.
- 16 Objectives LIGHT-O1 and LIGHT-O2 seek to ensure adverse effects from artificial outdoor lighting are avoided, remedied or mitigated in accordance with section 5(2)(c) of the RMA by requiring the following:
 - a. Ensuring the design, location, intensity and direction of lighting minimises adverse effects and is compatible with the characteristics and qualities of the surrounding environment (LIGHT-O1);
 - b. Lighting supports the health and safety of people and communities and maintains and enhances amenity values (LIGHT-O2)
- 17 LIGHT-O3 ensures artificial outdoor lighting enables a range of activities in all zones across the district and supports a safe transport network. This objective ensures people and communities throughout the district can provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and health and safety in accordance with section 5(2) by ensuring they have access to nighttime activities and businesses that require artificial outdoor lighting and can travel along roads that are appropriately illuminated to ensure commuter safety.
- 18 Overall, the light objectives in the PDP are assessed as being an appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA.

Section 6 RMA

- 19 The following section 6 matters of national importance are relevant to the management of artificial outdoor lighting:
 - a. 6(a) the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

- b. 6(b) the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.
 - c. 6(c) the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.
- 20 Objectives LIGHT-O1 and LIGHT-O2 seek to ensure the design and location of artificial outdoor lighting minimises adverse effects on the surrounding environment, ensuring lighting is compatible with the characteristics and qualities of the surrounding environment. LIGHT-O2 explicitly requires lighting to maintain and enhance amenity values. These objectives seek to ensure any adverse effects from light spill or glare from artificial outdoor lighting on natural character, outstanding natural features and landscapes and significant indigenous habitats are minimised, and the design and location of this lighting is compatible with the characteristics and qualities of these environments.
- 21 Overall, the light objectives are assessed as being relevant to several matters of national importance in section 6 of the RMA.

Section 7 RMA

- 22 The following Section 7 'other matters' are relevant to the management of artificial outdoor lighting:
- a. 7(b) the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources.
 - b. 7(c) the maintenance or enhancement of amenity values.
 - c. 7(f) maintenance and quality of the environment.
- 23 Some land use activities have a direct operational need or functional need to emit or undertake activities that result in the emission of light to allow for the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources. LIGHT-O2 and LIGHT-O3 supports artificial outdoor lighting for a range of activities across all zones throughout the Kaipara District to help support the efficient use and development of facilities and night time activities for people and communities whilst ensuring amenity values are maintained and enhanced.
- 24 The quality of the environment can be affected by activities that generate artificial light, and in some cases can result in effects on the health and wellbeing of people and communities. LIGHT-O2 seeks to ensure lighting supports the health and safety of people and communities and maintains and enhances amenity values.
- 25 Artificial light spill, glare, and pollution can have significant adverse effects on the amenity values of a site or an area. LIGHT-O1 seeks to ensure the design and location of artificial outdoor lighting minimises any potential adverse effects from light spill and glare and is compatible with the qualities of the surrounding environment.

Section 8 RMA

- 26 The objectives align with and help give effect to, Section 8 of the RMA, which requires the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi to be taken into account. Objective LIGHT-O3 seeks to ensure artificial outdoor lighting enables a range of activities in all zones and will support the use of artificial outdoor lighting for marae and other cultural activities. LIGHT-O3 will ensure that they are able to continue with activities on their marae while maintaining security for their properties.
- 27 Iwi place great significance to the night sky and the stars as these play a large part in their culture and traditions. Objectives LIGHT-O1 and LIGHT-O2 seek to ensure artificial outdoor lighting is designed and located to minimise adverse effects, is compatible with the characteristics and qualities of the surrounding environment and maintains and enhances amenity values. It is anticipated that these objectives, supported by Policy LIGHT-P2 and Rule LIGHT-R1 will ensure that lighting is designed appropriately for its purpose and located so that any light spill is minimised in order to avoid adverse effects on the night sky.
- 28 It is not expected that these provisions will raise any significant issues in terms of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Conclusion

- 29 Based on this assessment of the proposed Light objectives against the relevant matters in Part 2 of the RMA, it is considered that they are an appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA.

3. Evaluation of the Provisions

3.1 Introduction

- 30 Section 32(1)(b) of the RMA requires the evaluation report to examine whether the proposed provisions are the most appropriate way to achieve the proposed objectives by:
- a. Identifying other reasonably practicable options for achieving the objectives; and
 - b. Assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the provisions in achieving the objectives; and
 - c. Summarising the reasons for deciding on the provisions.
- 31 As outlined above, the Light chapter proposes three objectives. The next step of the evaluation is to assess whether the proposed provisions are the most appropriate way to achieve those proposed objectives in accordance with s32(1)(b) of the RMA set out above. In accordance with section 32(2) of the RMA, the assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of the provisions must include an assessment of the costs and benefits of the economic, social, environmental and cultural effects of the provisions, including whether opportunities for economic growth and employment are reduced or

increased. The risk of acting or not acting where there is insufficient or uncertain information on the provisions must also be considered.

- 32 The following sections of this evaluation report provide an overview of the reasonably practicable options to achieve the objectives that were identified, followed by an assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of the preferred provisions in achieving the objectives.

3.2 Reasonably practicable options

- 33 In order to identify other reasonably practicable options, the Council has undertaken the following:
- a. Reviewed other relevant district plan provisions;
 - b. Considered community feedback;
 - c. Considered health and safety Kaipara's communities; and
 - d. Considered feedback from iwi and communities.
- 34 Three options to achieve the objectives of the General District Wide Matters – Light chapter have been identified and are set out below.
- a. **Option 1 – Maintain the Status Quo:** Retain the existing lighting provisions as identified in the KDP.
 - i. This option would retain the existing lighting provisions in the KDP. The KDP currently manages light effects throughout various zone and overlay chapters. This plan does not include specific objectives and policies on outdoor artificial lighting, rather it regulates artificial outdoor lighting through permitted activity rules. Where artificial outdoor lighting does not comply with the permitted activity standards and lux levels permitted in a zone, a restricted discretionary activity resource consent is required. The Council's discretion is restricted over a few limited matters, these include any effects on traffic and pedestrian safety and the orientation, strength and design of the lighting proposed. Consequently, the Council cannot currently assess the full range of effects associated with artificial outdoor lighting when lux levels exceed the permitted standards in the KDP, this includes for example, effects on the night sky or any cumulative effect of lighting and glare.
 - ii. Since the KDP came into force, technical standards referenced in the rules for controlling the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting have been updated and the plan needs to align with the most up to date technical standards.
 - iii. Retaining the existing light provisions in the KDP is not considered appropriate or feasible as it would not meet the statutory requirements set out in the National Planning Standards which requires provisions for managing light to be included in a standalone light chapter in Part 2 –

District-Wide Matters of a district plan. The provisions also reference outdated technical standards.

- iv. Although the ODP provisions provide some controls for mitigating adverse effects of light spill, they do not ensure adverse effects from light spill or glare on the night sky and intrinsically dark landscapes, on amenity and character values of surrounding environments, the health, safety and wellbeing of people and communities and any cumulative effects of lighting and glare can be effectively assessed and managed across the district.
- b. **Option 2 – No provisions for lighting:** This is not a feasible option as there would be too much disruption to the community from light spill and the impact on the amenity values and ecological values would be too high.
- c. **Option 3 – New provisions and compliance with the National Planning Standards:** This option includes creating a Light chapter, complying with the National Planning Standards, and introducing a framework of objectives, policies and rules that recognise the important purpose of enabling lighting while managing its adverse effects.

35 The preferred option is Option 3 because:

- a. The KDP provisions are outdated. They contain insufficient policy direction to support appropriate outdoor artificial light rules and do not align with the most up to date technical standards for controlling obtrusive effects from outdoor lighting.
- b. The KDP provisions do not enable Council to consider the effects of outdoor artificial lighting on:
 - c. The night sky and intrinsically dark landscapes
 - d. The amenity and character values of surrounding environments
 - e. The health, safety and wellbeing of people and communities
 - f. Any cumulative effects of lighting and glare.
- g. The KDP is inconsistent with the National Planning Standards which direct lighting should be dealt with in a single chapter.
- h. The proposed policies and rules:
 - i. Recognise the benefits of artificial outdoor lighting and its contribution to community and economic activities by supporting artificial outdoor lighting for a range of activities across all zones throughout the district to help support the efficient use and development of facilities and nighttime activities for people and communities whilst ensuring amenity values are maintained and enhanced.

- ii. Recognises artificial light spill, glare, and pollution can have significant adverse effects on the amenity values of a site or an area and seeks to ensure the design and location of artificial outdoor lighting minimises any potential adverse effects from light spill and glare and is compatible with the qualities of the surrounding environment.
- iii. Seeks to ensure lighting supports the health and safety of people and communities and maintains and enhances amenity values.
- iv. Give effect to the requirements of the National Planning Standards.
- v. Will facilitates a resource management approach that is clearer, follows current best practice, and is more efficient and effective than the KDP.

3.3 Evaluation of provisions

Provisions Cascade for preferred option to be evaluated in Table 5 below:

	Policies: LIGHT-P1 Artificial outdoor lighting
	LIGHT-P2 Managing the intensity, location and direction of artificial outdoor lighting
	Rules: LIGHT-R1 Artificial outdoor lighting
	Objective: LIGHT-O2: Supporting amenity values and health and safety
	Policies: LIGHT-P2 Managing the intensity, location and direction of artificial outdoor lighting
	Rules: LIGHT-R1 Artificial outdoor lighting
	Objective: LIGHT-O3: Artificial outdoor lighting for a range of activities and within the land transport network
	Policies: LIGHT-P1 Artificial outdoor lighting
	LIGHT-P2 Managing the intensity, location and direction of artificial outdoor lighting
	Rules: LIGHT-R1 Artificial outdoor lighting.

TABLE 5: EVALUATION OF PROVISIONS

Option 3:	New provisions and compliance with the NPS
Benefits	<p>Economic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides certainty to business and community that they are able to use outdoor lighting thereby supporting the economic and social wellbeing of the community outside daylight hours as the lighting standard in LIGHT-R1 only applies to General Residential Zone and sites with an existing residential unit; • Enables a range of activities over all zones thereby allowing economic activity; • May help to increase vibrancy of the commercial centres and increased support for the nighttime economy; • Enables rural and commercial activities to continue outside daylight hours and operate without undue constraints; • Enables lighting for the operation and safety of the transport network; and • Where consents are required, a clear set of provisions will allow for a more efficient preparation of consent applications, therefore reducing costs to applicants. <p>Social:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables a level of lighting that provides for the needs of the community for a range of activities that supports social wellbeing and in particular provides for emergency and safety related services; • Will help ensure the character, amenity values and quality of Kaipara's urban and rural environments are maintained; • Enables future public, recreation, economic and social needs to be met; • Protects the safety of users of the transport network; • Improved management of lighting effects enables social activities to take place outside daylight hours. • May help to deter antisocial activities; • Provides certainty to the community that activities will be able to use outdoor lighting when required; • Enables astronomical observation and enjoyment of the night sky; and • Maintains amenity of adjoining properties by minimising potential adverse lighting effects.

TABLE 5: EVALUATION OF PROVISIONS

	<p>Environmental:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a clearer policy and rule framework for consideration in the assessment for an application for resource consent which provide greater clarity for decision making and environmental outcomes; • Seeks to minimise night glow from urban environments including cumulative effects; • Recognises that some areas are valued for their dark sky; • Minimise the effect on people's enjoyment of the night sky; • The quality of the environment and amenity values/character of zones are maintained; • Light spill and glare are controlled to ensure that effects are minimised relative to the sensitivity of the receiving environment; • Updated provisions that reflect best practice and the latest lighting standards to manage light emissions; • Targeted objectives, policies and rules that manage the effects of artificial lighting on the character of each zone or other amenity values that need to be protected; and • Where an activity does not comply with the permitted artificial outdoor lighting rules, resource consent is required for a restricted discretionary activity. Council has discretion to assess the effects of light spill on the surrounding environment including any cumulative effects and effects on views of the night sky and intrinsically dark landscapes. This rule framework ensures adverse effects from non-compliance on the surrounding environment are appropriately considered and managed. <p>Cultural:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting can support the cultural wellbeing of people and communities • Manages the effects of sky glow that supports celestial observation; • Enables cultural activities to occur beyond daylight hours; and • Recognises the significance that lwi have to the night sky and the stars.
Costs	<p>Economic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan users would need to become familiar with new provisions;

TABLE 5: EVALUATION OF PROVISIONS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential cost to the Council of administering the new provisions in terms of processing consent applications specifically for light or glare breaches; Cost relating to resource consent application where a lighting activity does not comply with the standards for the zone; and Costs to comply with the standards for light spill and glare effects. <p>Social:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for distraction from commercial signs; Potential for less enjoyment of the night sky; and New thresholds could potentially restrict the hours of operation of some activities not previously managed. <p>Environmental:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities requiring lighting may conflict with maintaining and enhancing ecological, landscape, heritage, natural and amenity values; and Potential for more disturbance on wildlife when activities extend outside daylight hours. <p>Cultural:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cultural costs identified.
Opportunities for economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While lighting in and of itself will not create opportunities for economic growth, it supports the economic growth of the nighttime economy in the Kaipara District by enabling activities to continue beyond daylight hours. The provisions also support commercial activity and vibrancy in the town centres as the lighting standard in LIGHT-R1 only applies to General Residential Zone and sites with an existing residential unit.
Opportunities for employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for employment occur if economic growth is enabled in which lighting plays a part.
Certainty and sufficiency of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information regarding lighting is certain and sufficient.

TABLE 5: EVALUATION OF PROVISIONS

Risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertainty or insufficient information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As there is no uncertainty of insufficient information, no analysis of the risk of acting or not acting is needed.
Effectiveness in achieving the objective(s)	<p>The proposed provisions are considered to be the most effective means of achieving the objectives as together they will enable the Council to fulfil its statutory obligations and give effect to Part 2 of the RMA by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing lighting and glare effects, whilst ensuring that lighting supports the social, recreational, economic and cultural needs of the community; Providing for controls for light spill that will assist in celestial sky observation and lwi appreciation of the night sky; Enabling work recreation and entertainment activities to occur beyond daylight hours acknowledge the functional and safety requirements for these sites; Enabling Council to effectively administer its District Plan in a clear and consistent manner; Proposing rules and standards are easily measurable which should provide some certainty for when consent is required or triggered; and Proposing provisions that ensure the character, amenity values and quality of environments are maintained.
Efficiency in achieving the objective(s)	<p>The proposed provisions are considered to be the most efficient means of achieving the objectives as together they will enable the Council to fulfil its statutory obligations and give effect to Part 2 of the RMA by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving clarity around the general approach to design and location of lighting which will result in improved efficiency; Only requiring a resource consent if there is potential for significant adverse effects on sensitive activities as the lighting standard in LIGHT-R1 only applies to General Residential Zone and sites with an existing residential unit; Being cost effective; Adopting the Australia/New Zealand standards for outdoor lighting which give certainty to plan users and homeowners; and Giving effect to the National Planning Standards.

3.4 Reasons for deciding on the provisions

- 36 The proposed policies, rules and standards in the General District Wide Matters - Light Chapter are assessed as being an appropriate way to achieve the objectives. They provide for:
- a. Design and location of lighting to ensure that the amenity values of the area are considered;
 - b. That cumulative effects of light spill are considered;
 - c. That rural and commercial areas and the land transport network can provide for safe and efficient use of resources and health and wellbeing of the community; and
 - d. The enjoyment of the night sky for cultural and astronomical purposes.
- 37 The proposed provisions are considered to be the most efficient and effective means of achieving the objective as together they will:
- a. Give effect to the National Planning Standards;
 - b. Enables the Council to fulfil its statutory obligations, including section 31 of the RMA and give effect to the relevant Part 2 Matters
 - c. Provide greater guidance for activities and associated activities on the standards that need to be complied with for light emissions; and
 - d. Provide for health and safety on transport networks and for the community.

4. CONCLUSION

- 38 Pursuant to s32 of the RMA, the proposed General District wide Matters - Light objectives have been analysed against Part 2 of the RMA and are considered to be an appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA.
- 39 The proposed provisions have been compared against reasonably practicable options. The proposed provisions are considered to be an appropriate way to achieve the proposed objectives.