


August 4, 2026

General Manager,

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Objection to capital PLN-26-0081 Draft Amendment 24/2026

Ross already has a dark sky. Any astronomer could easily head to the southern end of Church Street or to Ross Bridge to observe the sky. I have done it. The proposed map of the area is excessive and unnecessary.

If the council were to accept the insertion of NOR-S9.0 Dark Sky Specific Area Plan It would be creating a continuous and ongoing financial and administrative problem for Ross residents, business owners and farmers.

Street lighting is necessary in Ross especially when snakes are moving across Church Street to access the river. As all Tasmanian snakes are deadly, there being adequate and continuous illumination is crucial.

Currently there are no restaurants open of an evening for residents or visitors. This includes the hotel which has consistently closed on New Year's Day and other public holidays.

The proponents suggest they have community backing. How many of the 410 plus residents knew of this proposal prior to being informed by council? I certainly didn't and I expect I represent the majority.

In the guidelines at page 170 it states "...after which all non conforming lighting extant at the time of enactment must be brought into compliance with the policy" This imposes an unfair cost burden on residents and business owners.

On page 171 the community commitment is either 2 events per year or dark sky awareness documentation or education in Community Schools and curriculum. Council money is better spent on other things such as maintaing roads.

On page 172 it states that the community must erect and maintain appropriate signage indicating the international dark sky community designation along a roadway entrance along a footpath entrance or a public gathering place. How much will this cost?

On Page 176 we are told of the requirement of a written report being provided by the 1st of October each year and on page 175 that the IDSC designation is not awarded in perpetuity it is subject to regular review.

What will the cost be to the Northern Midlands Council in enforcing this policy?

Jacqueline Austin

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