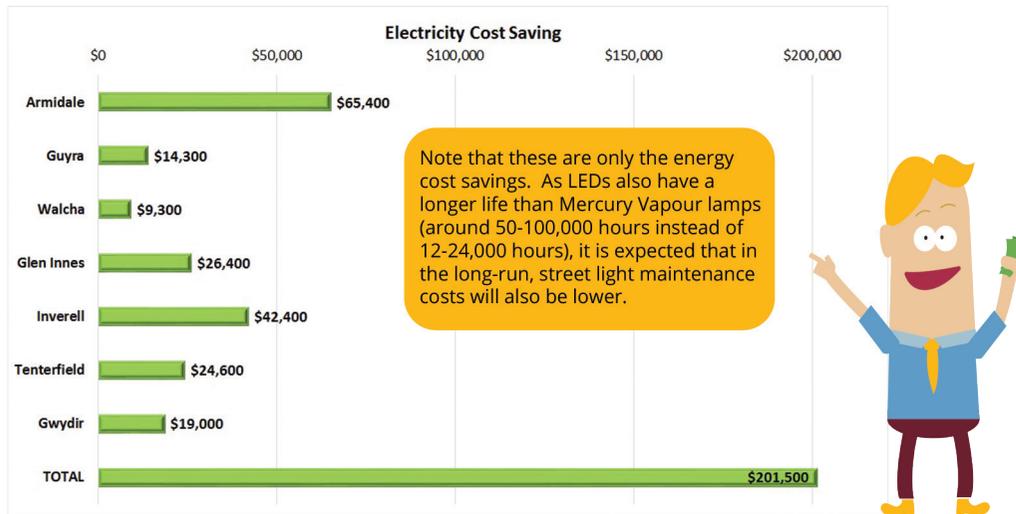


How Much Will Councils Save?

The following chart provides an estimate of the energy cost savings for each council when the Mercury Vapour lights scheduled for replacement are upgraded to LEDs – over \$200,000 per year across the seven councils.



How is the Project Funded?

RDANI was successful in securing a grant of \$576,000 from the Australian Government toward the capital costs of the new street lights, and to employ an Energy Efficiency Education Officer for the project.

Each of the seven councils will also contribute more than 50% of the funds toward the capital cost of the new lights, project communication activities, and street light energy monitoring services so that improvements in energy use and cost savings can be accurately monitored.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage has provided funding for the services of a lighting consultant to assist with the project.

What Will the Education Officer be Doing?

The Energy Efficiency Education Officer will be working closely with the seven councils and their sustainability/environment staff, as well as with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, by travelling around our region to promote energy saving tips to households and businesses.

A range of interactive portable displays and a website will be developed to assist with this task. These will be placed in high visibility community venues such as Centrelink buildings, Council foyers, libraries, community centres and shopping centres.

They will also be used at purpose-delivered community seminars and forums.

For further information about the Northern Lights Project and the Energy Efficiency Education Officer, go to www.northernlightsproject.com.au

Enquiries about the new street lights can be directed to your local council



This activity received funding from the Australian Government.

The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of the Commonwealth of Australia or Essential Energy and the Commonwealth and Essential Energy does not accept responsibility for any information or advice contained herein.



Welcome to
The Northern Lights Project

Information about new street lights in your area

What is the Northern Lights Project About?

The project has two key parts:

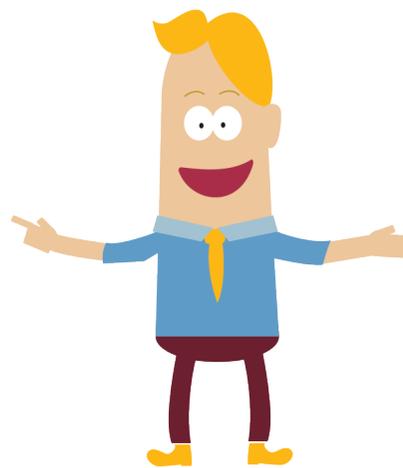
To upgrade approximately 5,000 council street lights from existing old technology, to energy saving LED (Light Emitting Diode) street lights in seven council areas in the Northern Inland region;

An Energy Efficiency Education Officer to help local households and businesses reduce their energy costs.

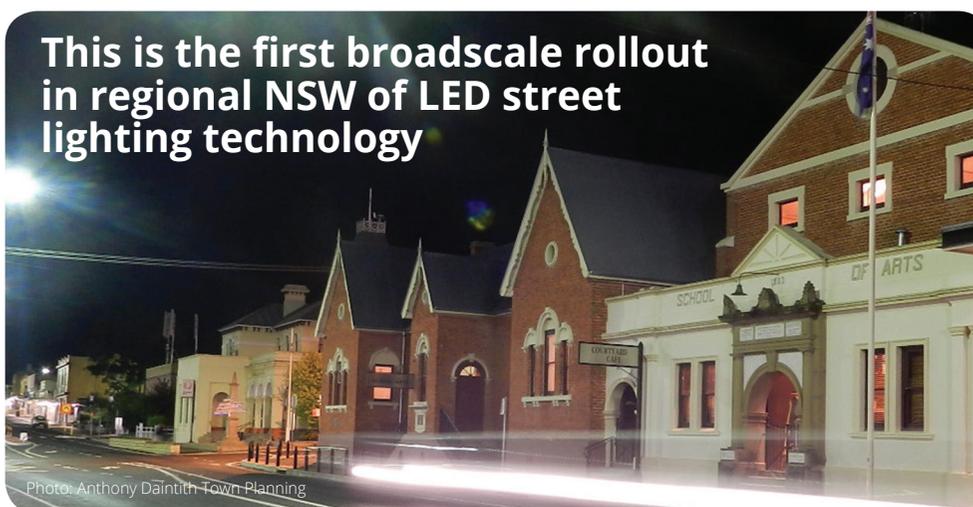
Who is Involved?

Regional Development Australia – Northern Inland (RDANI) are managing the project, together with seven councils in the region, namely:

- Armidale Dumaresq Council
- Glen Innes Severn Council
- Guyra Shire Council
- Gwydir Shire Council
- Inverell Shire Council
- Tenterfield Shire Council
- Walcha Council



Essential Energy will conduct the installation of the new street lights. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage are assisting with the education component.



Why Switch to LEDs?

LEDs represent the latest in lighting technology – they are far more energy efficient and produce a better quality of light than existing lights.

Current street lights are generally Mercury Vapour lamps (50 and 80 watts), along with a smaller number of High Pressure Sodium, Incandescent, Metal Halide and Fluorescent lamps.

Since the wattage of the light is the key factor in energy use, this means council street light energy use will reduce by between 50 and 70% for lights which are upgraded.

What are the Environmental Benefits?

The switch to LEDs will reduce energy use by around 1.2 million kWh. That will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by around 1,056 tonnes per year (in NSW, each kWh of electricity consumed emits 0.88kg of CO₂ equivalents).

Will I Notice a Difference in Lighting Levels?

The use of LED street lighting to replace existing traditional Mercury Vapour, Sodium Vapour or Fluorescent light sources can deliver significant improvements in efficiency and sustainability and more importantly a better quality of light. LED street lighting accurately delivers more light per watt of energy consumed and requires no lamp changes over its life. LED light delivers cool white light that assists with night vision. You will notice that when the changes to the street lighting in your area are complete the lighting will be brighter, more consistent and more effective than before.

Compact Fluorescent



LED



Comparison of compact fluorescent and LED street lights in Sydney (Source: Ausgrid 2013)

Will All the Street Lights be Upgraded?

Not all lights will be upgraded. Your Local Council will nominate replacements under the current Essential Energy Bulk Maintenance Program and these will be upgraded under this project. However, it is anticipated that the project will pave the way for all street lights to be upgraded to the latest LED technology in the coming years.