

Dark Sky Survey Results

Total survey responses: 173

Survey period: Sept 16 – Oct 15, 2023

Survey promotion: Brisbane Chamber Luminary (Sept 30), Brisbane STAR (Oct 1), City social media accounts and email blasts, OSEC booth at Day in the Park (Oct 7), Senior Center lunch (Oct 11)



Demographics

173 total responses

Homeowner	141
Renter	24
Multi-family property owner	7
Commercial property owner	5
Other (condo, citizen, mobile home)	6
Visitor	3

	<1 year	1-5 years	5-10 years	>10 years
Resident	9	23	24	111
Non-residential property owner	7	2	2	11
Non-residential tenant	7		3	7

What are the main lighting issues that you perceive in Brisbane?

Selected responses from 92 total responses

Concerned about lighting / supportive of regulation (~63)

- Giant stars on the hill, excessive lighting in unoccupied residences, unnecessary outdoor lighting
- Everyone on the hillside seems to have ridiculously bright floodlights. Also, businesses along Crocker have an insane amount of lighting.
- Too disruptive to natural environment
- Too many floodlights being directed onto other people's property! Just look up on the hill in Central Brisbane at night. Light is being broadcast over the ENTIRE city! Over-illumination of commercial properties.
- Spot lights making it impossible to enjoy the REAL stars in the sky.
- Downtown is too bright at night especially in the Apartment areas. Want the owls to come back.
- Balancing (perceived) security/safety with natural environment
- Too bright motion activated lights, and certain new houses that are almost entirely made of glass, and sometimes have all the lights in every room lit up.
- Commercial all night lighting
- Extreme light trespass. Too much illumination. Almost no darkness.
- Crocker Park lighting impacts residents on the Ridge. All outdoor lighting should be amber.
- Ultra bright LED lights that flood the surrounding area and blind people and night critters
- the worst offender of the night sky (and to our well-being) is the industrial park. The onslaught of lighting emanating from there each night is bewildering and nothing short of abhorrent. I understand the need for security and business operations but the lighting is a gross offender of dark skies and requires immediate intervention. I personally have been negatively affected for decades by the glaring 5000k+ flood lights. Lights there should invariably be down-lit (since they are currently fully indirect/flood) and reduced in total quantity or output. This is the minimum for human health. For wildlife health lower CCT would be recommended. Full shutoff after operating hours would be ideal, with the exception of (a reduced number of) streetlights operating.
- The main lighting issue I have is with residential lighting in central Brisbane and Sierra Point. I think we should have bird safety ordinances for Sierra Point and the dump that protect birds, especially during migration.

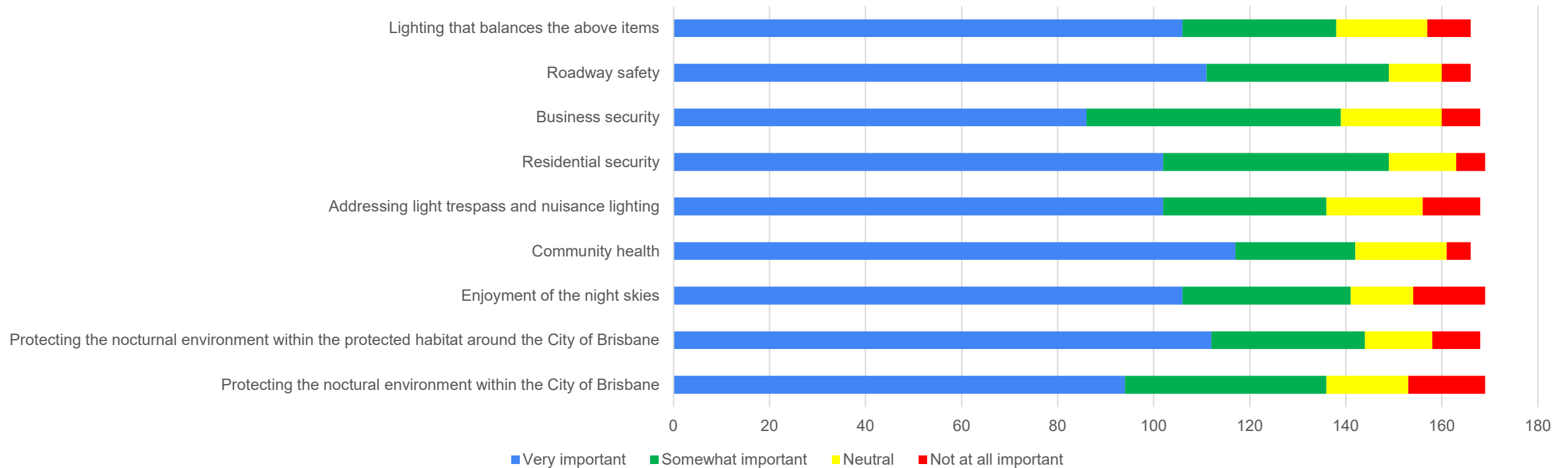
Oppose regulation (~24)

- None!
- That all of our changes will not make a significant difference, being next to SF.
- People that want to push their agenda over the safety of others.
- Does the Brisbane have a 'before' light level at 25-50 locations coupled with a biological survey to establish baseline data over at least one full year? If not, then this light regulation will not have any measurable effect other than the inconvenience of yet another law, and make the social justice warriors publicly crow about the new regulation without any data to prove benefits. Daly City, SF and SSF dwarf Brisbane's light output. This, coupled with our marine layer, makes seeing the galaxy (as you've pictured) impossible. False marketing.
- Better street lighting for safety is more important than regulating people's garden lights or front porch lights. The residential streets can be very dark, the further into town you go.
- Given our location (near SFO, SF and US 101) lighting at night is to be expected.
- too dark as it is, lighting bad.. some street lights are out, no one changes them.. safety is always a concern
- I do not see any issues here. I am perplexed that this is even a thing. Feels very "woke" and the idea of having a light fixture police makes me unhappy.

Neutral/specific (~3)

- Balancing (perceived) security/safety with natural environment
- I am only concerned about LED lighting that is unhealthy, especially for growing kids
- Some lights are missing at the 101 Exit

How Important to you are the following?

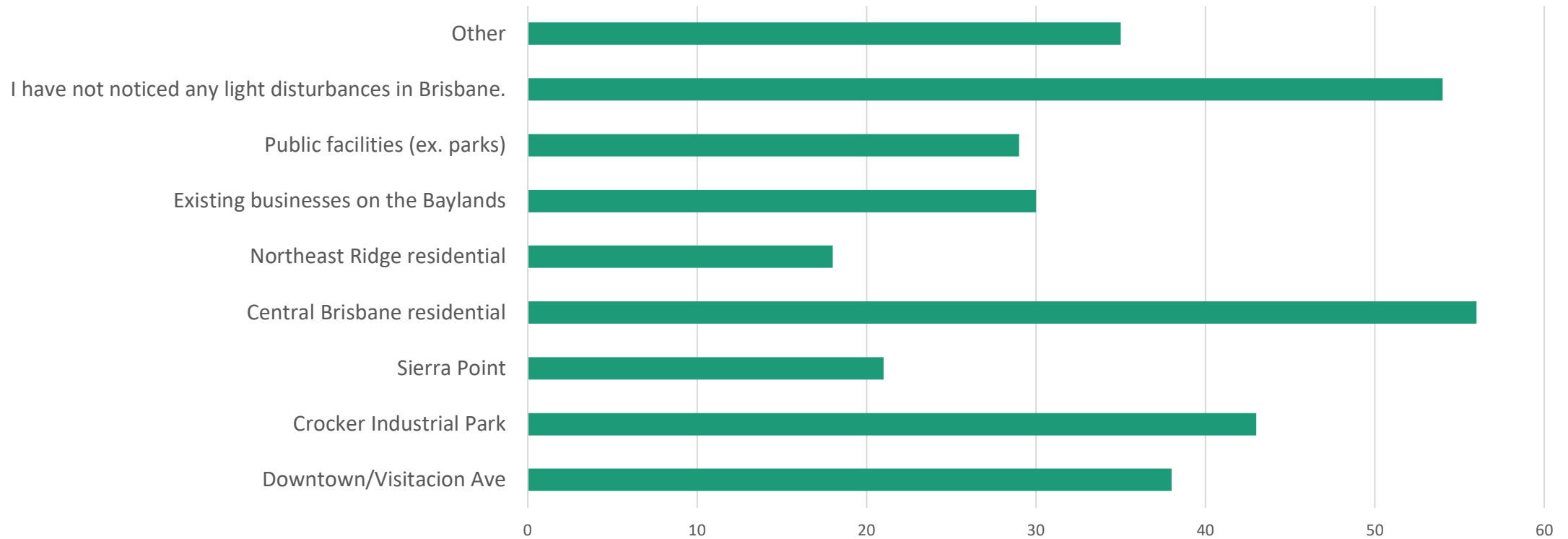


n = 169

Most important: Residential security, roadway safety (149 marked very or somewhat important; 88%)

“Least” important: Protecting the nocturnal environment within the City, Addressing light trespass and nuisance lighting (136 marked very or somewhat important; still 80%)

where outdoor lighting impacts are most disruptive/bothersome

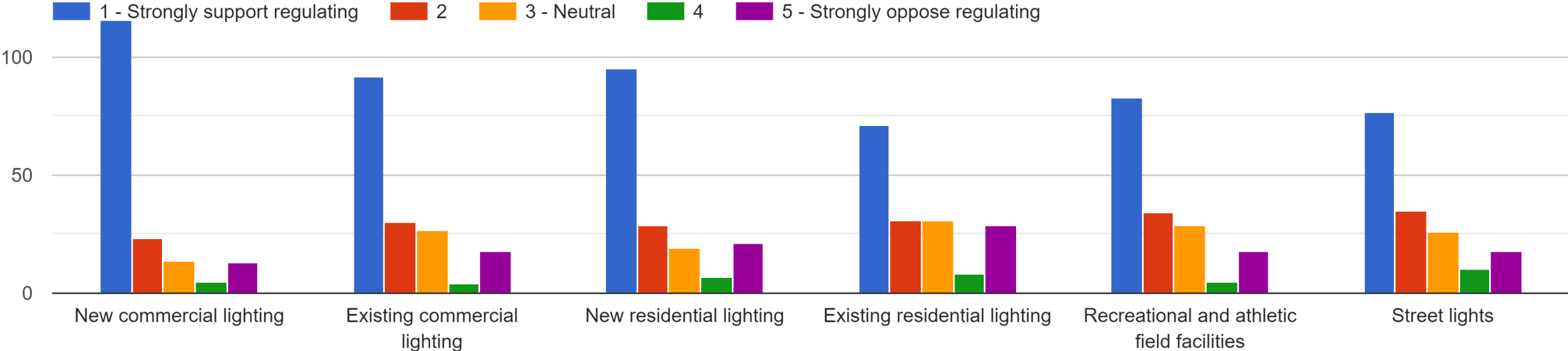


n = 165

Other:

- Some variation of “neighbor’s light” or “homes with very bright floodlights” – 22
- Lighting at public facilities (baseball field, pool, park, schools, new library) – 6
- Streetlights (generally a specific one outside their window) – 3
- Recology, Giant star on the hill, apartments on San Bruno, Candlestick Cove, SF, SSF

What outdoor lighting should be regulated by this ordinance?



n = 171

Most support: New commercial lighting (>80% strongly or somewhat support regulating)

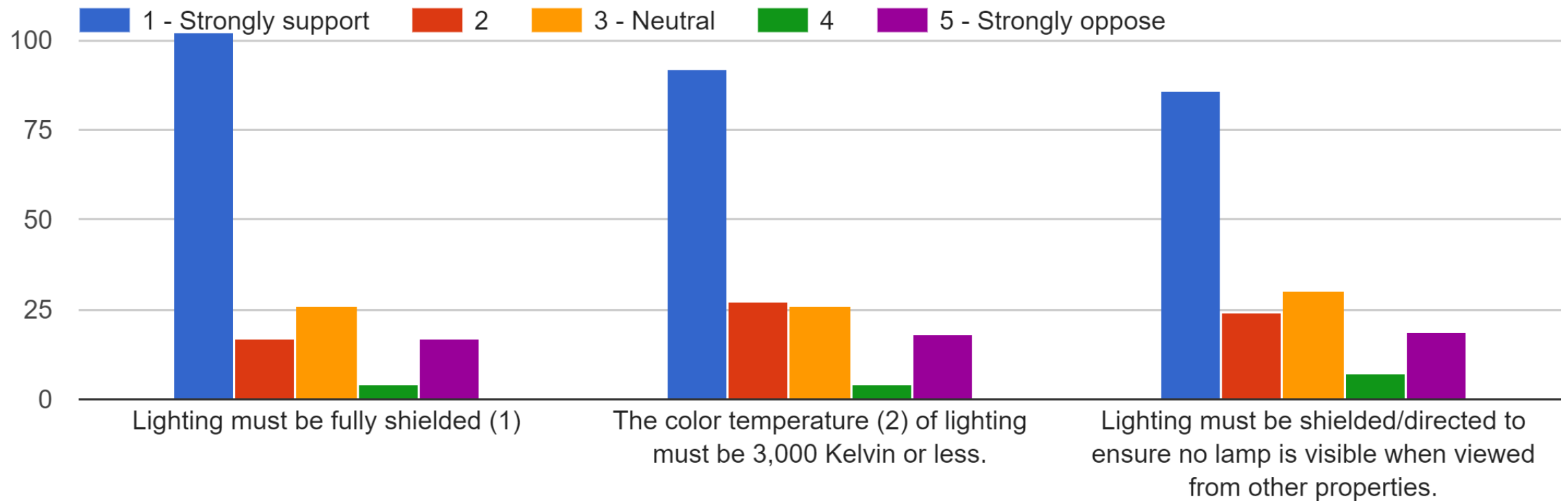
Least support: Existing residential (60% strongly or somewhat support regulating; ~22% strongly or somewhat oppose regulating)

Please add any comments or suggestions regarding covered and exempted lighting here, including any objections to listed exemptions, or additional outdoor lighting types that you suggest should be exempted.

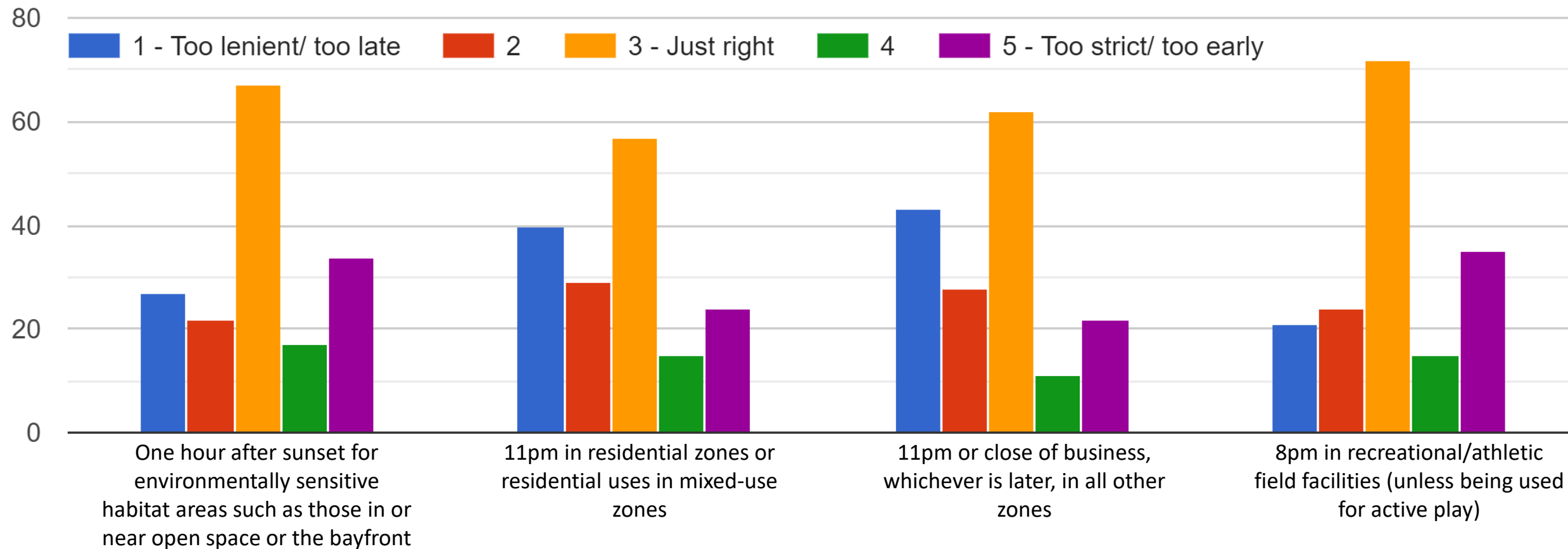
Selected responses from 60 total responses

- Lights on Brisbane Stairs [stars??] should also be controlled and omitted - Brisbane as a city is contradicting itself and showing it does not care for the environment if that is not controlled. Wooden environmental friendly stars without obtrusive and environmentally harmful lighting are more than sufficient to maintain Brisbane's identity. Operation times of sting lights in gardens should also be controlled e.g. turned off after 9PM. Controlling illuminating a flag is also important - there is no justification for illuminating a flag. Address identification should also be controlled with only discreet lighting approved. Brisbane should learn from rural areas such as Woodside for lighting control.
- Please regulate holiday/seasonal lights as well.
- Brisbane stars should also be regulated if they create nuisance for neighbors.
- 1) Emphasis on "seasonal/holiday" lighting - some residential Brisbane Stars are lit year-round and are very, very bright - if people want to keep them lit year-round, they should use bulbs that are lower watts; (and as an aside - why are we paying for the "holiday lights" on the light poles in downtown Brisbane to be on 24/7, year-round? I thought this was a holiday only thing); 2) I would like to see an ordinance that reduces the allowed lumens in new and existing residential and commercial exterior lighting and requires bulbs to be shielded; 3) in a perfect world, it would be preferable if commercial exterior lighting in Crocker was driven by motion detection devices vs "always on". Thank you OSEC for taking this on!
- I am absolutely, adamantly, opposed to getting rid of the Brisbane Stars or any holiday lighting. Additionally, homeowners and tenants should continue to have the right to use their lanterns and fire pits.
- If existing residential lighting will be regulated, city should provide cash rebates for replacing lighting to compliant types because financial barriers will make it difficult for the affected.
- Existing residential lighting should be exempt. Those who have recent construction went through permitting with the city planning and the city approved that lighting. Those homes must be exempt or you are creating an issue for the residents of Brisbane who followed the permitting requirements of the city.
- You should take into consideration any private residences that may be impacted by strong lights causing a glare on their property. Definitely NO strobe type lights, or flashing lights.
- Hi-lumen LED residential floodlights broadcasting beyond a property owner's OWN YARD should not be permitted as they are a nuisance to neighbors. Even downward-facing lights from a second-story residence act as floodlights and should not be permitted. Wall-sweeping upward facing lights on commercial buildings are light pollution and waste energy. All the illuminated signage and lighting architectural lighting should be turned off by midnight to conserve energy.
- nothing exempted
- No halogen type lights
- #7: flag lighting is typically up lighting, and should be avoided
- I think the temporary use and emergency lighting should be kept in check with follow-up visits.
- Should not exempt temporary construction and acorn-style street lights
- The street lights on Visitacion need shielding. Tulare Hill is dreadful light pollution now
- There are other low intensity lights that should be exempted like low light decorative landscape lighting (ex some people have twinkly lights in trees that doesn't light up the street/spill out). Also I'm assuming these rules apply to lighting facing public spaces/streets and not to lighting in peoples back yards...
- Less light / more Crime. Leave things as is. I can still enjoy the night sky.
- I am oppose to low lighting in areas that is could compromise safety for people -- some area is dark as it is - e.g., streets

Please rate your support or opposition for the following requirements for most types of outdoor lighting. Higher color temperatures, which have a ...h detrimental effects on wildlife and human health.



Curfews are proposed for most outdoor lighting, excepting for lighting activated by motion sensor which goes out within 10 minutes, and lighting at building entrances, parking areas and driveways. Please rate your support for these curfews.

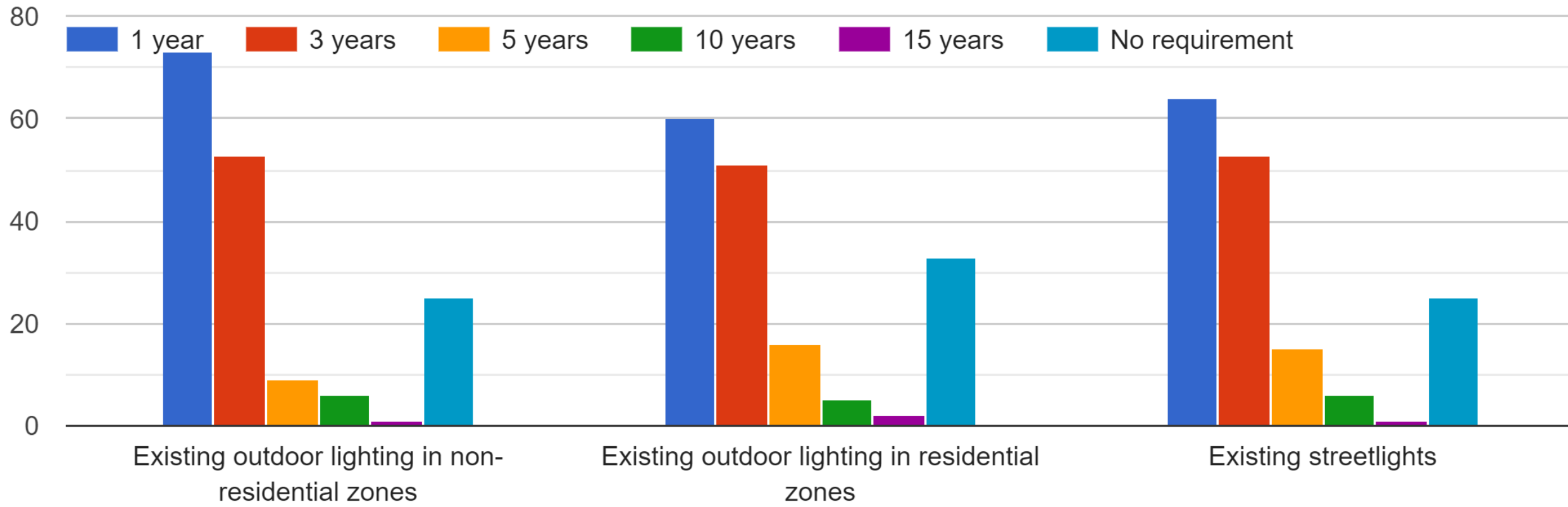


If you would like to add any comments, concerns or reasoning regarding your responses on lighting requirements and curfews, please do so here.

Selected responses from 42 total responses

- Earlier curfews and control. Lighting really harms the environment.
- Education is key to informing people that MORE and BRIGHTER light does not make them safer and can do the opposite. Brisbane streetlights need to be examined.
- 11pm seems a little too late for lighting curfews in Brisbane - something closer to 10 pm seems more reasonable for residential or residential mixed-use zones as well as business zones - most of our businesses on Visitation are closed much earlier than that except for Midtown Market which should qualify for lighting until the close of business.
- These safeguards are for the animals and pollinators too.
- Lightning should be installed at Lipman Field for sports teams that use that field. Can be timed lighted that required a button to be pushed to turn on.
- These exceptions seem to eat up the rule. "lighting at building entrances, parking areas and driveways" are the problem
- Would prefer dusk for every instance.
- There should also be a maximum height or addition shielding for street lights
- rec fields should be available later during summer months (consider sundown time) - 8:00 in winter is 3 hours after sundown, but may be before sundown in summer (both extremes). Attach times to sundown (ex 3 hours after sunset or 11:00, whichever come first)
- Would adjust the curfew times by season - in summer, it's light late so it matters less. In winter, it might be nice for someone to jog around an athletic field at 8:15.
- The curfew and regulation question depends somewhat on the consequence for violation.
- Street lights that shine into homes should have some kind of barrier on the side that affects the residence.
- Enough with these motion lights on RING installations (wakes me up every night) and aren't those cameras night vision?
- There are folks who get out of work late or exercise early; would like them to be safe
- There should not be a curfew for residential.
- Lighting promotes safety as it deters criminal activities. If security lights have a curfew of 11pm, then what's the point? Same with residential lights. Homeowners should have the right to keep outdoor lights on for security and safety purposes. Dialogue between neighbors and homeowners should be the mode to resolve concerns and issues.
- motion detection lights are more distracting than a low level light that is left on and directed away
- I am concerned about the enforcement of lighting requirements for resident's homes. An example is that I leave my porch light on all night for safety, as many do. I do not wish to be restricted in any way regarding which lights to leave on in front of my home.
- "No lamp is visible from other properties" does not work. Perhaps "No directional lighting shall be aimed at other properties." would be more reasonable.
- Not sure of meaning on some of this. If you mean residents have to obey lighting restrictions after a certain hour, that's one thing. I am against giving a time to go completely dark at any time.
- Please use maximum of 2700 Kelvin, not 3000 K. Technology allows using 2700K with no loss of effectiveness, and there are many fixture options available.
- The residential lighting is the absolute least of our concerns. I drove all around town the last 2 nights to see what I was missing and it is absolutely nothing compared to the Recology area. Why all these questions and curfews regarding residential? Is this for real?

For more extensive changes, such as replacement of non-compliant lighting fixtures, how many years out from the effective date of the ordinance should property owners be expected to comply by?



If you would like to add any comments, concerns or reasoning regarding your responses on compliance periods, please do so here.

Selected responses from 28 total responses

- "The one year time period is too long. Most lighting fixtures can be simply adjusted downward easily. Most lightbulbs can be replaced easily. Additional time can be granted by permit if applied for by a property owner. Where new fixtures are required, that should be verified before more time is allowed. Tax credits should be available to a business if they have replaced non compliant lighting within 3 years prior to the passage of the new ordinance. Street lights may require a longer time period depending on DPW advice of how long they project to require time to comply. If it's no problem, do it faster. "
- Instead of one or three years, I would suggest TWO years. In the case of financial hardship there should be a caveat to allow a bulb replacement with a prescribed VERY LOW lumens approved bulb.
- Our pollinators are going very fast. We need to move fast, too, to protect the fauna.
- Repeating hear that residential requirements to change lighting should be subsidized by the City.
- I think expediting changes is better, but maybe three years is best.
- Compliance of light color, if all other compliance is met, could follow later.
- Same as my previous comments - Get actual data first, and then based on the data determine whether or not these rules will make any actual difference.
- Would it be possible to incentivize the change with a small dollar amount rebate?
- New construction can accommodate updated lighting designs. Older buildings can be quite expensive to convert to new standards.
- HOA's are frequently affected by laws coming from Sacramento such as SB 326, which will cost Altimar over \$100,000.00 in unforeseen expenses for compliance. These are budget busters. While compliance for individual homeowners may be minimal, it can increase the financial stress of homeowners at the Ridge.
- SAFETY first, do not want dark streets - crime increasing in brisbane!
- One year is too long. Should be up to 4 months.
- Could also provide rebates on cost of changes.
- Would prefer that motion sensor lighting go off after 5 minutes.
- No way we are changing an of our light fixtures. This is a waste of time and resources.
- The urgency of implementing light pollution mitigation measures and replacing existing lighting cannot be overstated. It addresses a range of environmental, health, economic, and social concerns. The sooner we take action, the sooner we can enjoy the benefits of darker nights.
- Is is possible to offer low income residents support? For example, bring in their current too bright light bulb to exchange for less bright bulb?
- I am opposed to an ordinance that requires replacement of fixtures. Such an ordinance puts an undue financial burden on property owners.

Please share any concerns you have related to the topic of the Dark Skies Ordinance (ex. would the ordinance affect you or someone else's personal safety, lifestyle, routine, etc.?)

Selected responses from 61 total responses

No concerns / supportive / will benefit (~25)

- No concerns. This is great. Please do it!
- There is nothing in the ordinance that negatively impact anyone's personal safety or the safety of their business. Dark Sky International has published studies to prove this. Stores that sell lighting constantly push the fear of crime in order to sell more and brighter lights. That has a great deal to do with how we got to the point on needing this ordinance.
- Properly explained to the public safety would not even be an issue. Education is PARAMOUNT because there are so many misconceptions regarding safety and lighting.
- The ordinance would GREATLY aid my sleep. My concern is that compliance will be slow.
- The softer lights are easier on my eyes & better for the wildlife.
- I am still an "amateur astronomer", haven't seen any stars less than magnitude 2 in YEARS inside residential Brisbane.

Safety / crime (~20)

- Sight impaired Brisbane is already too dark in some areas to walk safely, and provide areas of camouflage for car theft and breakins.
- Exercising early (hi, collective camp!) can feel a little scary when it's hella dark.
- The more I read through this survey, the more concerned I became. We need lighting for safety. Our residential streets are already too dark for walking safely at night. Additionally, I am opposed to any ordinance that seeks to restrict holiday lighting and the City of Stars
- Regulating business lights is fine. Stronger street lighting is important. Infringing on residential properties is less important. Some people, especially elderly living alone, leave outside lights on to feel safe. Even if it can be annoying, I wouldn't want to deny a resident that privilege.

Waste of time / over-reach (~11)

- The whole thing feels like a waste of time tbh. Is there a clear, measurable, positive outcome to be had or is this just appeasing some resident who is pissed off at their neighbor?
- We are surrounded by a vast urban area; changes we make will have minimal effect but I still think it's a good idea.
- NIMBYism is my main concern. Those of us with kids and who go out of their homes at night are going to be the silent majority on these issues. Older folks do less at night and will try to drive poor policy choices because it suits their interest

Cost / specific exemptions (~7)

- I would not want it to cause a costly burden to low-income households to replace fixtures and bulbs, nor would the waste associated with upgrading be ideal
- exemptions should be allowed for those who may not be able to comply financially or physically (e.g. too old to change lightening on their property)
- For Hoa with common area lighting is used for liability and security and safety. This needs to be thought of as a exemption for the regulation

Data / information needed (~4)

- More information needed - questions seem too specific but not clear on what are good examples
- I'm concerned that you have gathered no data to support this ordinance. How do you know that these changes will make a measurable difference considered the light bleed from SF?

Please share any suggestions you have related to the topic of the Dark Skies Ordinance.

Selected responses from 38 total responses

Do it (~13)

- Please enforce and implement as soon as possible.
- Please Do Not grandfather any existing non compliant lighting. That is not fair, and it defeats the purpose of the ordinance.
- We need this ordinance so desperately

Education (~11)

- Show how much light has been added over the past 5 decades. Excessive light. Lighting manufacturers have stoked fear in people needlessly. For those who want to give up their ridiculous over-illumination, you might best be served by coaxing them into toning it down (lumens) but mandating they can be broadcasting light beyond their property!
- 1) Visual Examples 2) what is current business standard and how different is it to what is being proposed - again show examples even if simulated
- Would love to see simple educational materials sent to residents on lighting best practices (color temp, lumens, shielding, timers, etc.)
- There is sure to be pushback for either cost or safety reasons, so make sure to promote the important positives and address the concerns. Many other cities have adopted these types of ordinances and their experiences should be shared with the public.

Don't do it (~6)

- Stop working on this topic and please move on to more pressing issues.
- I find it unnecessary. We live near a city.
- Just be careful how far you go with this.

Cost / specific exemptions (~2)

- Providing tax credits where needed and justified will prevent any unnecessary financial burden on businesses to help them comply.
- For Hoa with common area lighting is used for liability and security and safety. This needs to be thought of as a exemption for the regulation

Data / information needed (~5)

- Don't pass an ordinance until you have baseline Brisbane light data over at least one full year for every part of town, and an associated biological survey.

Nuanced / specific suggestion (~7)

- I'm aware I have answered every question with a very "pro-regulation" bent. I can imagine that people with businesses, or who work in the industrial park at night, might be concerned for worker safety and security - bright light everywhere may be a deterrent to vandalism and theft, for example. Obviously consideration will have to be given to those concerns, and maybe there is even some data or research to address them.
- I think it is hard for the Crocker Park businesses. Yes they should dim, but they can't go dark.
- Keep it simple. Follow the lead of other cities who have been able to be commercially reasonable. Alameda is a good example

Please ask any questions you have related to the topic of the Dark Skies Ordinance.

12 total responses

- Other than the people who fear the dark, who is opposed to this idea? What is your ETA for finalizing this action?
- How soon can you get this going as it's long overdue!
- Will Brisbane's Dark Skies Ordinance have any real impact given lights from surrounding cities?
- Will San Francisco and/or other Bay Area cities also be complying? That would be great.
- How's the city done research and will it share that research and how other communities have implement this is some of the negative affects?
- How extreme is this to what is now being passed by other cities
- Would need more info on the section regarding Lighting Requirements especially color temperature.
- Who will enforce this?
- Color, temp, should be less a concern if lighting is directed toward targeted area and shielded from neighbor and drivers. No?
- Curious why this topic has come up now
- How are you going to regulate this? Will there be notices and fines?
- Why are we even talking about this?