

# HELP TO PROTECT WAIRARAPA'S DARK SKY



SOUTH WAIRARAPA  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
*Kia Reretahi Tātau*



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Taratahi  
**CARTERTON**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

The South Wairarapa and Carterton districts' night skies were officially certified as an International Dark Sky Reserve in January 2023 under the collective name 'Wairarapa Dark Sky Reserve', covering an area of 3,665 square kilometres.

## Managing light pollution better will help us protect the Dark Sky Reserve

Light pollution is the biggest problem for an International Dark Sky Reserve. South Wairarapa and Carterton residents recently gave councils the thumbs up for some new District Plan rules to help decrease and control our light pollution. The new lighting rules are all about shining light where it is needed, not into the sky.

## Here are the new rules, made easy

### 1. Use motion sensors/timers on outdoor lights

If your outside lights are on motion sensors/timers and turn off within 5 minutes – you're already doing your part. If they don't, adding a timer to your outside lights is the easiest way to cut light pollution.

If you have sensors/timers, you don't need to do #2 or #3, but you can if you want to help cut light pollution even more.

### 2. When it's time to replace outdoor bulbs, go for 3000 Kelvins or lower

Next time your outside lightbulbs need to be replaced, get warm coloured bulbs that are 3000K or lower. You can find the Ks on lightbulb packaging.

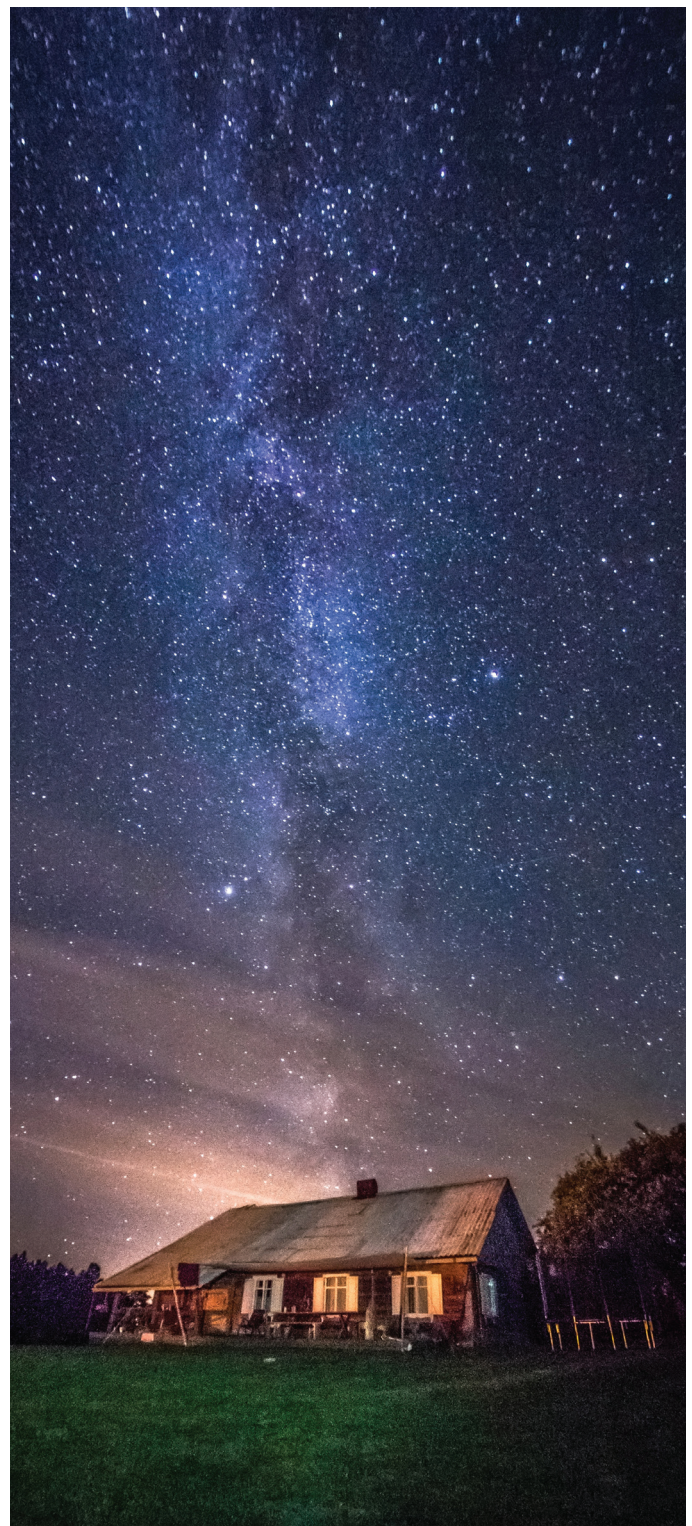
Kelvin is a measure of light temperature (colour) that goes from warm white to daylight white. 1000K lights are a warm yellow, and 7000K lights are a cool blueish-white. 3000K lights are on the warm end of the spectrum and create less light pollution. 3000K is the maximum the International Dark Sky Association approves in a reserve.

#### COLOUR TEMPERATURE (KELVIN)



### 3. Tilt outside lights down, or shield them

If you're installing new outside light fixtures or replacing old ones, choose models that are shielded, or that tilt down to focus the light where you need it most. This will minimise the amount of light that spills into the sky.



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## You don't have to replace anything now

Our aim is that within 10 years, 80% of our outdoor lighting will comply with International Dark Sky requirements. If you are able to replace your outdoor lighting now, we'd like to encourage it. That will help decrease light pollution and give our districts a head start on the 10 year/80% goal.

## A timer is the easiest way to help

We'd love it if everyone could make sure their outside lights are under 3000K and tilted down or have a shield on them, as these are some of the best ways to reduce light pollution. An easy option to make a start to reducing light pollution is to put your outside lights on timers.

## What to look for when you're shopping for new outside lights

1. The light is controlled by a timer or sensor and turns off within 5 minutes.
2. The bulbs are 3000K or lower.
3. The lights are shielded or can be tilted down, so light doesn't project/spill upward.

## Thoughtful lighting helps public safety too

Using lower Kelvin lights means that we could install more lights in public places - and make sure they are focussed better on what needs to be lit. So we'll be able to reduce unnecessary light pollution and increase public safety.

## Did you know?

Reducing light pollution has many other benefits including:

- Reducing your electricity bill
- Helping you sleep better
- Maintaining the natural environment for plants and animals
- Protecting and enhancing the night sky - one of our natural assets - for residents and visitors.

Want some more information about the Wairarapa Dark Sky Reserve? Visit the Wairarapa Dark Sky Association at [wairarapadarksky.nz](http://wairarapadarksky.nz)

