Invercargill
CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, October 16, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Christmas lights update; feedback wanted

Invercargill's ageing Christmas lights have undergone crucial maintenance so they can be installed for another two years, but decisions need to be made about future replacements, Chairman of Finance Cr Neil Boniface said today.

The Council owns the Christmas lights and Electricity Invercargill Limited arranges for them to be put up and taken down.

Cr Boniface said the ageing lights that had been installed over the last 25 plus years, usually lasted about seven years and were gradually replaced over time, but the English supplier of the Christmas lights had now gone out of business. Council would need to look at alternative suppliers for replacements.

"With the inner city redevelopment, this is a good time to discuss options for replacement lights, what they should look like, where they should be sourced and where they should be hung.

"The Christmas lights were also originally hung in Esk, Kelvin and Don Streets but since the last inner city upgrade they were hung only in Dee and Tay Streets. With the new redevelopment, people might like to consider whether they should be moved back to Esk and Don Streets.

"There is also the option of looking at the possibility of winter lights.

"Council will be looking into this from 2015 onwards and consulting with the Inner City Working Group and other key stakeholders," Cr Boniface said.

ENDS.

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