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Invercargill City Council

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The request

Invercargill City Council is looking to establish a Decorative and Festive Lights strategy for the Invercargill City and Bluff areas, focussing on its desire to use cleverly displayed lights to bring vibrancy to the most popular areas within our city. The strategy will also bring to life Invercargill as the 'City of Water and Lights'.

The Council have identified that while there are some festive lights that are consistently used over the Christmas and holiday season, this is over the summer period when we experience particularly long days and shorter nights. As such, a lights strategy would look to identify alternative opportunities to use lights over the year, celebrating other festivals such as Matariki, Diwali etc.

In preparation of this proposal, we have looked at two options:

1. Festive and Event Lighting Guidelines

This will be a set of guidelines that can influence festive and event lighting such as Christmas and Matariki and other events as may occur during the year.

Lighting should ensure protection of the night sky and enable compliance with dark sky accreditation requirements, as this is a key part of our Destination Management strategies being implemented now.

We envision that the guidelines would also consider laser and drone lighting as well as consent/RMA compliance.

2. Lighting Strategy

A lighting strategy will be a more in depth, comprehensive project typically aiming to provide the vision, methodology, standards, and guidance to meet the future requirements of Invercargill City as the 'City of Water and Light'.

A lighting strategy aims to enhance people's experience of the city after dark by celebrating both light and natural darkness. It promotes improvements to safety and amenity and celebrates Invercargill's unique position in the southern hemisphere.

The strategy will consider taking a more holistic approach to public lighting and will position Invercargill City as the first accredited dark sky city in New Zealand, reinforcing its position at the City of Water and Light and ensuring the considered use of festive and event lighting to bring vibrancy to the city in the winter months.

Proposed Approach

Great South will use the services of an external consultant to complete the guidelines and/or strategy, depending on what is approved by the council.

1. Festive and Event Lighting Guidelines

- Stage 1 – Site Visit – Stakeholder engagement

This will consist of a site visit by the consultants to meet with council and other key stakeholders to gain input into the guidelines including issues and opportunities. Existing lighting installations and potential future opportunities will be taken into consideration.

- Stage 2 – Research

Stage 2 will research current district plan lighting rules and other policy documents within the City and research how other communities have addressed event and festive lighting within the context of dark sky protection.

- Stage 3 – Draft Guidelines

This stage will entail the development of draft guidelines and may include stakeholder feedback if required. Indicatively these will consider:

- o Current situation
- o Dark Sky requirements
- o Event and festive lighting methods including assessment of compatibility
- o Guidelines and implementation

- Stage 4 – Final Guidelines

This will entail finalisation of the guidelines following council feedback and that of stakeholders.

2. Lighting Strategy

This too will consist of four stages and will include the establishment of a detailed programme of activities to address specific lighting challenges beyond just festivals and events.

The strategy will also include lighting rules for inclusion in district and spatial plans.

- Stage 1 – Site Visit – Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Analysis

During Stage 1 a site visit will be coordinated between the consultants, council and other key stakeholders to gain input into the guidelines including issues and opportunities. Existing lighting installations and potential future opportunities will be considered and a comprehensive review and mapping of the existing public lighting within the city including current policy, plans and projects will be undertaken. The consultants will identify key CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design) opportunities and risks within the Invercargill CBD and identify opportunities for improvements.

- Stage 2 – Workshop initial directions – Public engagement

In Stage 2 the consultant will workshop initial findings and direction with Council staff and/or elected representatives. They will produce a discussion paper outlining broad intentions and opportunities to enable public feedback.

The consultant will use their own tools to facilitate place-based community feedback, enabling the public to place virtual pins on a map of the city to identify issues and opportunities and make comments. It can also deliver structured surveys to gain feedback on the discussion paper and initial directions.

• Stage 3 – Draft Strategy

The draft strategy will be developed during this stage, including further stakeholder feedback if required. The strategy will be a visually compelling document and will likely include the following:

- o Analysis
- o Vision
- o Objectives
- o Principles
- o Actions
- o Prioritised lighting improvement projects
- o Public lighting policy and technical standards
- o Festive and event lighting guidelines
- o Private lighting guidelines
- o Dark Sky accreditation opportunities

• Stage 4 – Final Strategy

Stage 4 will entail finalisation of the strategy following council and stakeholder feedback (if included).

Costs

1. Festive and Event Lighting Guidelines - NZ\$ 20,616.00 + GST

This cost is inclusive of consultant fees, disbursements, stakeholder engagements, hosting meetings, catering and two rounds of amendments/reviews.

Any additional work or services provided over and above this will attract further costs, which will be advised and accepted prior to taking on additional services.

2. Lighting Strategy – NZD 78,606.00 + GST

This cost is inclusive of consultant fees, disbursements, stakeholder engagements, hosting meetings, catering, koha, project communication including social media and boosted posts. This cost also includes two rounds of amendments/reviews.

It is envisioned that Invercargill City Council's Communications team will aid in the required communication and promotion of this project including assisting with connecting with identified stakeholders.

Any additional work or services provided over and above this will attract further costs, which will be advised and accepted prior to taking on additional services.