

Lighting Council Australia 2020 Update

Article

2020 has been a year dictated by COVID-19, to say the least, however, given the trying circumstances for the Australian lighting industry, Lighting Council has enjoyed a successful year on several fronts.

COVID-19 brought with it, debilitating restrictions in all states and territories, in particular Victoria. Domestic and International travel ceased for most of the year, making for an unusual year for members. LCA undertook a national advocacy effort to ensure lighting manufacturing and supply was deemed an essential service. The Secretariat looked to guide its members throughout the pandemic with information regarding sector operation guidance, business grants and support.

Accepting the travel restrictions and transitioning to virtual operations for the majority of 2020 has allowed for continual engagement between the Secretariat and LCA members.

Political advocacy on behalf of the lighting industry has remained a key operation throughout the pandemic delivering with it several significant wins for industry. After nine months of extensive engagement with parliamentarians, the Research & Development Tax Incentive Bill was dumped by the Morrison government which would have cost industry an estimated 1.8 Billion.

Lighting Council strongly advocated that the Federal Government must drop the Bill and lobbied every Crossbench Senator as well as Labor and Green Senators and a number of Government Senators. The final outcome is a significant win for Australian companies undertaking R&D activities, and now more than ever support for R&D activities will help and encourage companies to invest in growth and innovation.



Picture: The Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP presents to LCA members at February's Members Meeting

The residential volume of the National Construction Code (NCC) is the main focus of revision for republication in 2022. At this stage, the lighting requirements are not proposed to be substantially changed.

Given the inherent efficiency and market dominance of LED lighting, energy efficiency rules are no longer relevant to lighting. These rules can be problematic for designs that wish to utilise layers of lighting as the NCC only considers installed lighting power without considering how the different layers of light will be used. Lighting Council will continue to engage with the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) to ensure decisions are reasonable and sensible.

The phase-out of halogen lighting in Australia is approaching and the Department of Industry has agreed to provide 12 months' notification from the point when the Ministerial Determination is finalised. The Department is seeking to finalise this Determination by April 2021 so a halogen phase-out is not likely before April 2022.

In 2020, Lighting Council has continued to develop and release a host of consumer and supplier education material with strong support from the Council's Sub-industry Groups. LCA's [LED Buyers Guide](#) was released earlier this year and is designed to help consumers purchase quality lighting products and avoid purchasing non-compliant lighting equipment. The easy-to-use guide is endorsed by Master Electricians and Minister for Energy, the Hon Angus Taylor MP.

Lighting Council recently released its [Commercial Solar Lighting Guide](#) intended to assist in choosing solar lighting installations that will be fit-for-purpose and compliant with industry technical specifications and requirements.



Picture: LCA members listen intently as a presentation from Signify focuses on global lighting megatrends

In 2020, Lighting Council formed a Human Centric Lighting Working Group which has proven to be highly beneficial in its infancy. The newly formed working group has both national and international representation from several industry experts providing LCA members with access to some of the most advanced companies and individuals in the human-centric lighting field.

LCA's Environmental programs continue to improve industry sustainability initiatives, and both [Exitcycle](#) and [Fluorocycle](#) schemes have increased signatory engagement. In 2020, a new website has been launched for Fluorocycle to provide a greater user experience and increased guidance for the appropriate disposal and recycling of lighting products. Further guidance material is being developed for industry environmental education with a focus on improving the sustainability objectives of lighting manufacturers and suppliers.

Following the adjournment of the National Awards for Excellence in Lighting in 2020 due to COVID-19, Lighting Council looks forward to once again hosting the event in 2021. The National Awards for Excellence in Lighting is the premier Australian lighting event and will be held at Four Seasons Hotel

Sydney on Tuesday 22 June. The event will bring together industry participants including owners, directors and senior personnel of the industry's most influential participants. In addition, consultants, designers and standards bodies will also be invited to attend.

The event is a celebration to acknowledge the superb work of industry participants in Australia with 10 Awards to be presented on the evening. Awards for Excellence will be given across a range of categories, including innovation across a range of areas such as street lighting, building automation, and smart controls, outstanding contributions to standards development and engagement with industry, including a Lifetime Achievement Award. Awards are also on offer for the Best Small Business and Young Achievement Award.

Event sponsorship opportunities and event tickets will be available very shortly and interested businesses and individuals should contact the Secretariat at info@lightingcouncil.com.au for more information. Award nominations will also be available to companies and individuals wishing to be nominated for an award on the evening.

On behalf of the Lighting Council Secretariat, a large thanks must go to all of our [members](#) who have continued to support the Secretariat throughout 2020.

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