



**Paul Italiano** Chief Executive Officer

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Andrew Hawkes  
Advisory Officer  
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations  
GPO Box A11  
PERTH WA 6837

Dear Mr Hawkes

**RE: SHIRE OF DENMARK STREET LIGHTING**

Thank you for your letter of 21 November 2013 in relation to street lighting in the Shire of Denmark (the Shire).

Please find below information in relation to the questions you have raised which I am hopeful will be of assistance to you and the Committee in considering this matter.

In line with the community's expectations that Western provides a safe, affordable and reliable service, all streetlights are now being connected directly to the low voltage mains of the network.

The previous system of connecting streetlights via an isolated switchwire is being removed from the network as a high priority due to its age and poor condition as it is considered to present a serious public safety risk.

As a result, the streetlight on/off function is now performed by an in-situ photoelectric cell with an ambient light sensor (dusk to dawn) which is in line with Australian standards and other electricity networks.

Removal of the previous switchwire system in the Shire of Denmark was completed in June 2013.

In response to the questions you have raised:

**1. Who pays for the electricity costs?**

The electricity costs associated with streetlights are paid by the relevant Local Government Authority.

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Western Power only recovers the actual costs that it has incurred and this is reviewed annually and submitted by Western Power to the Economic Regulation Authority for its consideration and approval.

**2. The consultation process with local government and the community (including the Shire of Denmark).**

Western Power consults with local governments on a wide range of issues including local council developments, greenfield developments, undergrounding of the network, planned outages for maintenance, high-load traffic management as well as streetlights.

Western Power is also a member of the Public Utilities Office Streetlight Reference Group. Members of the group include:

- Public Utilities Office (State Government representative);
- Western Australian Local Government Association (peak body);
- Synergy (retailer);
- Western Power (network operator)

Western Power has not consulted directly with the Shire of Denmark in relation to the issues raised in the letter. However, Western Power responded to a query from the Shire around the removal of the old switchwire system, which resulted in the Shire's streetlights being changed to photoelectric cell lighting.

**3. Any programs or methods that Western Power uses to reduce energy consumption from street lighting in country areas, such as street lighting being switched off between 1am and 5am, etc.**

Western Power does research new technology that will reduce energy consumption for customers, and currently uses low energy streetlights that are cost effective and meet Australian Standards.

There is provision for local government authorities to 'opt out' of street lighting provided by Western Power by building and operating its own street lighting. There are examples of Councils in the metropolitan area pursuing this option for specific areas within their jurisdictions.

However, in relation the question above, Western Power is not currently aware of a commercially-available product that can automatically switch off the photoelectric cells with the timing capability desired by the Shire of Denmark.

I trust the information provided above addresses the questions in your letter and please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



**PAUL ITALIANO  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
WESTERN POWER**