



Recent streetlight tariff announcements

June 2011

Following the recent State Budget announcement about an increase in Streetlighting costs, Western Power has received a number of enquiries from Local Government seeking information regarding streetlight operations.

This update seeks to provide an update on these questions.

What are the current switch-off times for Western Power streetlights?

The majority of Western Power streetlights are currently controlled by PE (photo electric) cells, which switch on at dusk and switch off at dawn. However, there are a small minority on timer controls, which switch off at either 12:00am or 1:15am.

Photo Electric Cells vs Timer controls

Photo Electric Cells

Photo Electric Cells (PE Cells) operate by measuring the available light surrounding the sensors and activating the streetlight when it falls below a predetermined level. This usually occurs at sunset and sunrise but may even switch the streetlight on, on a dark stormy day. PE cells are installed individually on each streetlight and are installed in all underground power areas and the majority of overhead power areas.

Timers Controls

Timer controls are installed on streetlight circuits, which control multiple streetlights. Streetlight circuits are predominantly found in overhead power areas and are currently being phased out and replaced by PE Cells for safety, reliability and efficiency reasons.

Can a streetlight controlled by a PE cell be turned off earlier?

Western Power does not currently have the technology available to adjust the switching times of a streetlight controlled by a PE cell. PE cells with a timing device are being developed, however this technology is yet to be researched or tested by Western Power.

Can a streetlight circuit controlled by a timer have the operating times set?

Yes, a streetlight circuit that is controlled by a timing device can have the hours of operation set. A cost would be incurred by having a timer reset as it requires a physical adjustment by maintenance crew.

What operating time is a timer set for?

It depends on the individual timer and the operating hours to which it was set. The switch-off times currently available are 12am, 1.15am and a preset time for dawn.

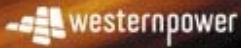
Is dimming technology available for Western Power Streetlights?

The current streetlight technology that Western Power uses is not conducive to dimming. Once a reliable PE cell with a timer is developed, part-night lighting may be a viable option to drive savings.

Would there be any tariff savings if streetlights were switched off earlier or dimmed?

Western Power streetlights are not metered, therefore the energy usage must be calculated. Current streetlight tariffs are calculated using an assumed energy usage based on the 12:00am switch-off, 1.15am switch-off or a dawn switch-off, which bundles the energy, maintenance and asset costs of the Streetlighting service.

For more information, please contact Western Power's Local Government Relationship Manager, Mike Read, on (08) 9326 4466 or by email: mike.read@westernpower.com.au.



For general enquiries please ring 13 10 87