

Media Release

Date: February 10

Embargo: For immediate release

Smart LED street lighting can help avoid the next power crisis

With temperatures rising, Australia needs to get much smarter about how it uses electricity. LED street lighting is one leading example where we could be saving both millions of dollars and millions of kilowatt hours every year.

The Federal and NSW Governments, along with the Australian Energy Market Operator, are clamoring to reduce power consumption in the face of possible NSW blackouts this weekend as has beset SA.

Businesses and government offices are being asked to turn off any power appliance that they don't need. Households are being asked to turn off appliances that use 'stand-by' power. These efforts are well intended but unlikely to be effective.

One long-term solution which would save up to \$100 million a year nationally is to replace antiquated street lights with Twenty First Century LED lighting. Just under half of all Australian street lights are currently mercury vapour, an obsolete and inefficient lighting technology invented in the 1930s. Only about 9.5% of all of Australia's street lights have been converted to new LED technology so far.

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia's (IPWEA) Street Lighting and Smart Controls (SLSC) Programme has just released a nine-month research project – the SLSC Roadmap – that found Australia could cut street lighting energy consumption by 50% and overall, and cut street lighting costs for councils by 25%. That's a saving of \$100 million per year across the country.

"A lot of our energy consumption at present is needlessly wasteful and street lighting is a leading example," IPWEA CEO Robert Fuller said.

"The federal and state governments should commit to fund the widespread rollout of LED street lighting with smart control across all councils. Australia would not only dramatically reduce power consumption from measures like this but start to introduce controllable loads to the electricity grid.

"Smart controls on street lights and many other types of smart city infrastructure could be called on at times of peak demand to intelligently cut consumption. This would give us a buffer to ensure that essential electricity supply remains stable and available through a crisis. Such measures would help us keep air conditioning on, businesses open and avoid rolling blackouts."

The addition of smart controls means that in peak load periods like NSW is about to experience, street lights could be dimmed to as low as 25% of their power and still provide an acceptable level of community safety and security.

The SLSC Programme is working with industry and all levels of Government – but this current crisis shows just how urgent the need is to get smarter about our electricity consumption and

figure out how to fund the accelerated rollout of LEDs and smart controls across Australia as soon as possible.

IPWEA's 3rd International Street Lighting and Smart Controls Conference (Brisbane, March 14 – 17) will bring world-class experts from the US, the UK and beyond to demonstrate how cities such as LA have managed large-scale LED and smart control rollouts. To view the speakers, visit <http://streetlightingconference.com.au/>.

More information about the SLSL Programme and the Roadmap can be found at <http://www.slsc.org.au>.

About IPWEA

IPWEA is the peak not-for-profit association for public works and engineering professionals across Australia and New Zealand. It provides training, publications and advocacy to support its 4,000-plus members and 20,000-plus engineering community professionals who provide essential community infrastructure. Visit www.ipwea.org.

Contact Details

For interviews, please contact:

Robert Fuller | Chief Executive Officer | IPWEA Australasia
T 1300 416 745 | D +61 2 8607 0480 | M +61 412 526 100
E robert.fuller@ipwea.org | W www.ipwea.org