

# CASE STUDY

## Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council invests in LED Sports Lights from Smartlux



### **GO GUYALA.... LIGHTS ARE ON FOR YARRABAH SEA HAWKS**

#### **LED Lights for Rugby League night games for Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council**

Jilara Oval, in Yarrabah, East of Cairns, in Far North Queensland is now able to enjoy all sorts of sports and events under lights due to the smart investment in LED lights.

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council's Chief Executive Officer, Leon Yeatman knew this would mean more game time in Yarrabah.

"Up until now we weren't able to pursue night games or training for other field-based sports due to the quality of lights we had," he said.

"We had issues about power draw and poor quality of the older incandescent lights and the lumens on the field, where the shadows were was pretty dark, so were restricted to Saturday or Sunday afternoons.

"We are blown away by our new lights – at 25% they provide a far crisper light and the same lumens as the old ones at 100%.

"They give a really good perspective on the field with clear sight all around – great for players, spectators and administrators.

"We originally had 8 lights but now have a configuration of 16, but with the power draw will have a power bill that is smaller, which is great.

Maintenance and access to the lights and poles is also much easier according to Leon.

"Getting to the lights is also easier, as these poles fold down to us on field level for maintenance, so we can do repairs a lot more efficiently," he said.

"We used to have to hire in a truck and get people up to the top of the poles if a light went."

Cairns is one of the premier rugby league competitions in Queensland, and the local team the Yarrabah Sea Hawks Rugby League Club are the only all indigenous, amateur team in the league.

"We won the competition a few years back, and the council are really proud of our association with the sport," he said.

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“The team is bigger than those on the field, as there is a dedicated team who run the committee, work hard as volunteers to support the club and support our community” he said.

“We are also looking at some AFL activities and Yarrabah has annual free music festival, with Yothu Yindu being our last headline act.

“We applied the local government procurement process, which saved time and the Smartlux team were very helpful. The work was done on time and in budget and the results are amazing,” he said.

“It would be great to think that we could possibly snare a Q Cup game for the indigenous round in the future so we can keep yelling Go Guyala!

Leon was also grateful to Councillor Ross Andrews the Mayor Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council for his leadership and support to get this project to reality.

The installation was of 4 x 18 metre lowering base hinge poles each carrying 4 LED Sports field floodlights.

This has provided sporting standard light levels, compliant for semi-professional rugby league games on the oval.

“There is no spill light and we can also dim for junior training and amateur competition levels, saving energy with nice uniformity across the oval.”

Smartlux Director, Craig Nicholls encourages councils to move quickly once they have funding and work closely with those who have already been approved.

“The Local Government Procurement Panel has already done some of the hard work as it ensures each supplier is suitable and ready to go to support communities getting projects done quickly.

“It is the quickest way to execute grant funding for community projects as each supplier has already been through a due diligence process and are focused on getting projects completed – as it’s a shame to watch another sports season start without the right lights,” he said.

“The Abacus base hinged masts used at Jilara oval are a smart answer to a common problem experienced by remote and regional communities where getting cranes for sports lighting maintenance becomes extremely expensive and problematic.



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