

Recently Kosciuszko Thredbo National Park realised they required additional reliable street lighting for a popular section of road for park staff and public alike. The issue, how to achieve a lighting solution that maintained a sustainable approach, in a short time, without the massive infrastructure changes associated with underground cabling and roadworks not too mention costs, whilst being able to withstand extreme weather conditions from sub zero, snow to 40 degree days? As well as being aesthetically pleasing... The answer he solar light.

Euan Diver – Environmental Services Manager, Kosciuszko Thredbo

“An integral part of Thredbo’s municipal services is the network of public roads, car parks and paths that provide access in and around the village for guests and residents. A component of the road and path network is street and path lighting, providing light at night for the safe passage of both vehicles and pedestrians alike.

While the many areas of the village have some form of street lighting that provides adequate low-level lighting to path and road surfaces, there are areas that have minimal or no lighting. A section of Friday Drive is considered one of these. One of the challenges of street light installation is the supply of electricity to them, often there is no suitable supply nearby an area that needs lighting or if there is, it still requires a significant cable installation to connect a series of lights in a row. The solution is to use solar powered LED street lights which negates the need for a cable and in the medium to long term, has significant economic and environmental benefits given that no ongoing electricity supply is required, resulting in no expense for electricity and zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Following the successful trial of a he solar powered LED street light at the intersection of Banjo Drive and the Alpine Way here in Thredbo in season 2015, we installed 15 he solar street lights along the northern edge of Friday Drive from the Valley Terminal in a north east direction to the Thredbo River crossing in 2016. Following the principle of having adequate but low level lighting to avoid significant light spillage into the surrounding environment, we installed a series of fifteen “HEI Antares 2000 P100” LED Solar lights supplied by Radius Energy along the road edge and footpath.

The lights have performed flawlessly in the Alpine environment of Thredbo, surviving significant snowfalls and periods of time without direct sunlight. Feedback from resort staff and guests has been enormously positive and we have used the installation as a demonstration of Thredbo’s commitment to operating in an environmentally sustainable manner.”

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