

What is Night Glow?

Botanic by Night: Night Glow was a ticketed after-dark lantern trail through Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha. It ran from 25 September to 10 October for 16 nights, with a 837-metre illuminated route and 11 large lit animal sculptures with Indigenous designs inspired by native wildlife.

Who ran it?

City Parklands, a subsidiary company of Council delivered it and it sits inside Brisbane City Council's Mt Coot-tha precinct transformation, the same plan that lists night-time activation in the Gardens as an opportunity to explore.

Is it a permanent installation?

No, it was a limited 16-night season. Treat that as the thin end of the wedge: the precinct plan already canvasses ongoing night activation, so a one-off season is how a permanent show gets established.

Does it affect wildlife?

Light at night disrupts feeding, movement, breeding and rest for nocturnal species and these shows were held during breeding season. The event organiser, City Parklands said it's was low-impact and ecologically advised. "Independent ecological advice informed the design" described a process, not an outcome, it doesn't say what the advice said or whether it was followed. The request for the Ecological Assessment was rejected.

What about traffic and parking?

Three carparks were nominally provided: the main Botanic Gardens carpark (184 bays) and the Ada Street carpark (94 bays), with a shuttle from the Legacy Way overflow carpark on Sir Samuel Griffith Drive. That's under 280 bays for a crowd anticipated at 2,000 patrons a night.

Was parking actually a problem on the ground?

Yes. Only the early sessions were busy, yet two carparks were full by 7pm and local street parking became an issue from the first night. Direction on site was thin: two or three traffic controllers with minimal signage and very limited traffic direction or pedestrian assistance on the first night. Signage & the number of traffic controllers increased on subsequent nights. However, the weeknights excluding the public holiday were very quiet and staff were standing around from 7.30 to 10.30pm with little to do.

How much traffic and noise does it add?

Night Glow's own planning figure of 2,000 a night across six half-hour sessions at the popular early sessions of 6.30 & 7pm produced traffic congestion, increased noise & LED light pollution and the inevitable strain on local streets with extra traffic and parking.

Wasn't this consulted on?

These events were approved by a Council permit and announced to the community the day the tickets went on sale.

How much were tickets?

\$30 adult / \$15 child aged 3–12 (free for under 3s, ticket required). Brisbane LGA locals pay \$25 / \$12.50.

What should you ask Council for?

The ecological assessment; nightly patron and vehicle numbers; measured light-spill and whether the unlit bushland corridor stays dark; the procurement method, contract term and revenue to Council; and a commitment that this doesn't set a precedent for year-round night activation.