

CLOUDMASTER IRRIGATION CONTROL SYSTEM



Municipal Park Management Floodlight Control - Overview

Cloudmaster is a municipal park management system which can control irrigation, floodlighting, security lighting, hot water systems, barbecues etc. Optional communications by telephone, cellular or council radio channel can provide full control and monitoring of these facilities, for all parks scattered around the municipality, from a central PC running Cloudmaster Windows software.

Sporting clubs who regularly use the floodlights can be issued with uniquely encoded keytag transmitters or be given a PIN number which they can SMS from any (or only nominated) mobile phone to control the floodlights. From the central PC the Council sets up 'time windows' for each club, specifying time of day, day of week etc. Within these time windows the club can turn on and off what they want and when they want it—half lights for training or full lights for a night game. It is their choice. If training is cancelled due to rain then the lights don't come on and they don't pay. The lights will turn off automatically at the end of their time window if the club has not turned them off beforehand. Casual bookings can be handled on a on-off time clock basis, which eliminates the need to issue a keytag or SMS access code.



Club floodlight control by keytag or SMS

The keytag reader operates through a brick wall, so all hardware is safely mounted out of harms way. In its memory the Cloudmaster unit logs all activity such as floodlight usage, irrigation, wiring problems, power fails etc. This history log is automatically retrieved by the central PC and usage reports and club accounts can be easily generated. The accounts can cover any accounting period, include GST and can be printed directly to council letterhead and enclosed in a standard DL window envelope (see sample account). For security, the account also lists the phone number of the mobile phone used to activate the lights by SMS. The Cloudmaster can optionally SMS the club with advisory messages such as '**Invalid PIN nr**', '**Out of hours**', '**Park is closed**', '**Invalid Phone nr**' or '**Cool-Warm period**'.

The life of discharge type floodlight lamps is maximised by the minimum warm up and cool down periods that can be set for each floodlighting channel. These periods, typically 10 to 15 minutes, prevent the clubs from power cycling the lights too quickly. Total run time reports can be generated to assist in lamp replacement scheduling.

The result is a much fairer user-pays system for the club. It also eliminates many problems for the council, such as floodlights left burning overnight or on unused playing fields, lost keys to switch boxes, vandalised switch gear and coin-operated machines, arguments over floodlight usage and wasted man hours in cost accounting and visits to the site to change timers, empty coin machines etc. The unit also controls irrigation so that significant water savings can be achieved through central control.

The system has been installed extensively throughout Sydney and many councils around Australia (see list of sites).

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