

# **NOISE**

## **General Noise**

Unwanted noise can negatively affect a person's health and wellbeing. Not only can it cause hearing loss, but it may affect people through annoyance, sleep interference, stress, loss of productivity and a general reduction in the quality of life.

The actual loudness, including the frequency, tone and vibrations of a sound may only be one component of the effect on people. Other considerations include time, place, duration, source of the sound and whether the person has any control over it.

This fact sheet includes information about Council's involvement in noise nuisance and ways that may assist residents to reduce noise emissions and meet legal requirements.

### **Be a good neighbour**

Before starting a project that is likely to create noise, either from the activity (building works) or the equipment (an air conditioner), take the time to talk to your neighbour. Find out what concerns they may have and ask them about any suggestions they may have to solve the problem. In many cases an agreement can be reached that satisfies everyone's needs.

### **The law**

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* places limits on certain activities and the use of certain equipment, these limits are outlined in the *Noise Nuisance Guidelines*.

Category	Prohibited Times & Noise Criteria
Building works (holder of a QBSA licence)	Must not carry out building work, if the noise is audible: a) at any time, on a Sunday or public holiday; or b) before 6:30am or after 6:30pm, on a Saturday or a business day.
Regulated devices (lawn mower, power tools, generators)	Must not use, if the noise is audible: a) before 8am or after 7pm on a Sunday or public holiday; or b) before 7am or after 7pm on a Saturday or a business day.
Electrical, mechanical or pneumatic pumps (including pool and spa pumps)	Must not use or permit the use of: a) before 7am or after 10pm on any day, if the noise is audible; or b) from 7am to 7pm on any day, if the noise is more than 5dB(A) above background; or c) from 7pm to 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 3dB(A) above background.
Air conditioning equipment	Must not use or permit the use of: a) from 7am to 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 5dB(A) above background noise levels; or b) before 7am or after 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 3dB(A) above background.
Refrigeration equipment	Must not use or permit the use of: a) before 7am or after 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 3dB(A) above background; or b) from 7am to 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 5dB(A) above background noise levels.
Indoor venues	Must not use or permit the use of: a) before 7am on any day, if the noise is audible; or b) from 7am to 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 5dB(A) above background; or c) from 10pm to midnight, if the noise is more than 3dB(A) above the background level.
Open air events	Must not use or permit the use of: a) before 7am on any day, if the noise is audible; or b) from 7am to 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 70dB(A); or c) from 10pm to midnight, if the use causes noise of more than the lesser of 50dB(A) or 10dB(A) above the background level.
Amplifier devices (other than at an indoor venue or open air event)	Must not use or permit the use of: a) from 7am to 10pm on a business day or any other day from 8am to 6pm, if the noise is more than 10dB(A) above background level; or b) before 7am or after 10pm on a business day; or c) before 8am or after 6pm on any other day.
Power boat/ Jet ski engine	Must not use or permit the use of, if the noise is audible: a) before 8am or after 6:30pm on a Sunday or public holiday; or b) before 7am or after 7pm on a Saturday or business day. Please note a time limit of two continuous minutes applies.

If issues between neighbours are unable to be resolved, and further complaints are made, Council will need to investigate.

### **Noise issues looked after by Council**

1. Nuisances arising from residential premises, including:
2. Construction work for residential buildings up to 10 floors
3. Regulated devices (including power tools, lawn mowers and leaf blowers)
4. Air conditioners
5. Swimming and spa pool pumps
6. Powerboat engines from residential places
7. Noise from barking dogs and;
8. Nuisances from some industrial activities that are regulated and licensed by Council such as workshops and boat repairers (contact Council if further clarification is required)

### **How to register a complaint with Council**

If any noise issues are unable to be resolved between neighbours, concerns for those issues can be made to Council. Any noise related concerns must be forwarded to Council in writing and should include as much detail about the noise issues as possible. Information provided to Council should include the time(s) the noise concerns you the most and where and what you think the nuisance noise is coming from.

### **The following noise nuisances are not administered by Council:**

1. Noise from house alarms is regulated by [Queensland Police Service](#).
2. Noise from loud music and parties is regulated by [Queensland Police Service](#).
3. Noise from licensed premises such as hotels and clubs is regulated by the [Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation](#) .
4. Noise from vehicles and trail bikes is regulated by [Queensland Police Service](#).
5. Noise created by the State Government or Council is administered by the [Department of Environment and Science](#) .
6. Noise from non-devolved ERA's is administered by the [Department of Environment and Science](#)

### **Ways to reduce noise in our community**

#### ***Select quieter equipment***

When buying equipment or appliances, consider the noise level and where possible purchase the quietest option. An appropriately sized model should also be considered. Proper installation and use will assist in reducing noise emissions.

#### ***Location***

Where practical, carry out activities or locate equipment as far away from your neighbours and other sensitive areas (such as bedrooms) as possible. Also consider whether the activity could be done in a garage or shed.

#### ***Limiting hours of use***

Talk to your neighbours about when noisy activities would be most likely to affect them. Most people are concerned about noise at night and early morning when trying to sleep. Also consider whether any of your neighbours undertake shiftwork.

### ***Maintenance***

Equipment that is not maintained may cause higher noise levels and reduce the effectiveness of the equipment.

### ***Fences or Barriers***

A solid fence or barrier may reduce noise levels. Avoiding 'line of sight' between equipment and other people may also reduce the noise they hear.

### ***Enclosures***

Enclosing the activity or equipment in a sound isolating enclosure can be very effective in reducing noise levels. It is important to ensure that adequate ventilation is provided. Advice should be sought from the installer or manufacturer.

***For more information contact Council on 4079 9090 or visit our website.***