

# NOISE NUISANCE

Noise from many activities or equipment may disturb neighbours, disrupt their sleep and interfere with daily activities. If loud enough, noise can also affect their health. This fact sheet may help to reduce noise and understand what the legal requirements are.

**FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD:** Talk to neighbours. Find out what concerns they have and ask them for suggestions about solving the problems. Solutions can often be found that satisfy everyone.

## WHO MANAGES ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCE ISSUES?

In Queensland, local governments are responsible for administering those parts of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 that manage environmental nuisance.

There are some exceptions, so check the information below.

## WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCE?

Environmental nuisance is:

- Unreasonable interference (or likely interference) with an environmental value caused by emissions of aerosols, fumes, light, noise, odour, particles (including dust) or smoke; or
- Unhealthy, offensive or unsightly conditions caused by contamination.

## INFORMATION WE REQUIRE FROM YOU

When investigating noise complaints, Council considers the following:

- The amount of noise
- The duration, rate and type of noise
- The environment and the potential impact
- Views of other neighbours or complainants
- Other relevant criteria

## WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS?

Some situations are not managed by local government—you will have to contact a different authority.

- Noise from parties, cars, house alarms and trail bikes—call the Queensland Police Service (Police Link 131 444).
- Noise from licensed premises such as hotels and nightclubs—contact the Queensland Government’s liquor and gaming regulatory office on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or make an online complaint.
- Emissions from some commercial activities may be permitted—call your local council to find out more.
- Nuisance caused by essential safety or essential government actions, such as emergency repairs—call your local council to find out more.
- Council also has restrictions about the level of noise from barking dogs, building sites, air conditioners and other devices.

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### **Building Works (EP Act 1994 Section 440R)**

Noise from Building Works can occur during:

Monday to Saturday 6.30am to 6.30pm

No audible noise on Sunday or Public Holidays

### **Regulated Devices (EP Act 1994 Section 440S)**

For example Lawn Mowers, Power Tools etc.)

Must not operate a Regulated Device which makes an audible noise:

Monday to Saturday before 7.00am and after 7.00pm

Sunday and Public Holidays before 8.00am or after 7.00pm

### **Pumps (EP Act 1994 Section 440T)**

For example Swimming Pool Pumps, Spa Blowers, Bore Pumps etc.)

Must not use or allow to be used:

Before 7.00am or after 10.00pm, if the noise is audible

From 7.00am to 7.00pm, if the noise is more than 5dB(A) above background noise or

Before 7.00pm or after 10.00pm if the noise is more than 3dB(A) above background noise

### **Air-Conditioning Equipment (EP Act 1994 Section 440U)**

Must not use or allow to be used:

From 7.00am to 10.00pm if the noise is more than 5dB(A) above background noise or

Before 7.00am or after 10.00pm if the noise is more than 3dB(A) above background noise

### **Refrigeration Equipment (EP Act 1994 Section 440V)**

Must not use or allow to be used:

From 7.00am to 10.00pm if the noise is more than 5dB(A) above background noise or

Before 7.00am or after 10.00pm, if the noise is more than 3dB(A) above background noise

### **Indoor Venues (EP Act 1994 Section 440W)**

Must not use or allow to be used:

Before 7.00am on any day, if the noise is audible

From 7.00am to 10.00pm if the noise is more than 5dB(A) above background noise or

From 10.00pm to midnight if the noise is more than 3dB(A) above background noise

*Note: Some exemptions for Educational Institutions.*

### **Power Boat Sports (EP Act 1994 Section 440Z)**

Must not use or allow to use for a continuous period of two (2) minutes:

On a business day or Saturday before 7.00am or after 7.00pm if the noise is audible

On any other day before 8.00am or after 6.30pm if the noise is audible

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### **Open-Air Events (EP Act 1994 Section 440X)**

Must not use or allow to be used:

Before 7.00am on any day, if the noise is audible

From 7.00am to 10.00pm if the noise is more than 70dB(A); or

From 10.00pm to midnight if the use causes noise of more than the lesser of the following:

(i) 50dB(A)

(ii) 10dB(A) above the background noise

*Note: Some exemptions apply.*

### **Amplifier Devices (Other than those used at indoor or open air venues) (EP Act 1994 Section 440Y)**

Must not operate:

On a business day before 7.00am or after 10.00pm

On any day before 8.00am or after 6.00pm

*Note: Some conditions apply.*

### **Power Boat Engines on Land (EP Act 1994 Section 440ZA)**

Must not operate or allow to be operated:

On a business day or Saturday before 7.00am or after 7.00pm if the noise is audible

On any other day before 8.00am or after 6.30pm if the noise is audible.

### **Blasting (EP Act 1994 Section 440ZB)**

Must not conduct blasting if:

The air blast over pressure is more than 115dB Z Peak for 4 out of 5 consecutive blasts; or

The air blast over pressure is more than 120dB Z Peak for any blast; or

The ground vibration is;

(i) for vibrations of more than 35Hz - more than 25mm a second ground vibration, peak particle velocity; or

(ii) for vibrations of no more than 35Hz - more than 10mm a second ground vibration, peak particle velocity.

### **Outdoor Shooting Range (EP Act 1994 Section 440ZC)**

Must not operate, or allow the operation of, an outdoor shooting range:

Between 6.00am and 6.00pm on any day, if the noise from the operation is more than;

(a) for a range that is normally used at least 5 days a week - 95dB Z Peak Hold; or

(b) for a range that is normally used 4 days a week - 100dB Z Peak Hold; or

(c) for a range that is normally used no more than 3 days a week - 105dB Z Peak Hold.

Between 6.00pm and 10.00pm on any day, if the noise from the operation is more than:

(a) for a range that is normally used at least 5 evenings a week - 85dB Z Peak Hold; or

(b) for a range that is normally used 4 evenings a week - 90dB Z Peak Hold; or

(c) for a range that is normally used no more than 3 evenings a week - 95dB Z Peak Hold.

*Note: Some conditions apply.*

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