

# 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 for time and place, duration, source of the sound and whether the listener has any control over it, should be made.

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

Noise nuisance is regulated by the "Environmental Protection Regulation 1998". The regulation provides restrictions on the times noise can be made. Mackay Regional Council is legally required to enforce this regulation when nuisance noise is emitted from residential premises. 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

Nuisances arising from residential premises, including:

- Construction work for residential buildings up to 10 floors
- Regulated devices (including power tools, lawn mowers and leaf blowers)
- Air conditioners

- Swimming and spa pool pumps
- Powerboat engines from residential places
- Noise from barking dogs; and

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.

### Noise issues not looked after by Council

Nuisance noise arising from most commercial and industrial activities are administered by

the Environmental Protection Agency (Contact your regional Environmental Protection Agency office – ph 4944 7812).

Other nuisance noise from noisy parties, music, burglar alarms, and off-road vehicles are dealt with by the Queensland Police (Contact your local Police Station).

Licensed premises, including nightclubs causing noise nuisance from music are administered by the Department of Liquor Licensing, which is incorporated under the Department of Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development (Contact your regional office for the Department of Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development – ph 4969 3000)

### 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.

#### Modifications

Sometimes modifications to the equipment may reduce noise. Advice should be sought from the installer or manufacturer.

#### For details please contact Mackay Regional Council.

Phone 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529) or visit [www.mackay.qld.gov.au](http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au)

