



# NOISE NUISANCE

This fact sheet addresses the issue of noise pollution caused by various activities and equipment, emphasizing its potential to disturb neighbours, disrupt sleep, interfere with daily activities, and even affect health if sufficiently loud. It suggests ways to comply with legal requirements. It highlights the shared responsibility among residents, business owners, and Isaac Regional Council in managing neighbourhood noise.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The State Government's *Environmental Protection Act 1994* regulates neighbourhood noise from both domestic and commercial properties. Council is responsible for investigating noise complaints and enforcing legislation.

Some commercial properties are governed by development conditions that take priority over the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the Act) and Council also investigates breaches of these conditions. The Act includes controls for noise nuisances, and Council is legally obligated to enforce them. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and further complaints are made, an investigation will be conducted.

If the noise is deemed a nuisance, the offender may receive a Direction Notice from Council outlining the offense and a timeframe for resolution. Non-compliance may lead to fines of 15 penalty units (for an individual) or 75 penalty units (for a corporation).

There are some noise nuisances Council is unable to investigate. Council has no legal power to investigate noise from:

- Music, parties, off-road vehicles and security alarms
- Premises with a liquor license
- Land owned or controlled by State Government

For assistance with the above noise nuisances contact Queensland Police, Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, respectfully.

## THE CRITERIA

When investigating a noise complaint, Council will consider:

- The amount of noise
- The duration, rate and type of noise
- The environment and the potential of impact
- Other relevant criteria

## TIPS TO REDUCE NOISE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

**Talk to your neighbours and limit the use of noisy equipment** - Neighbours are encouraged to communicate openly to address noise concerns, seeking solutions that accommodate everyone. Council encourages residents to discuss issues and collaborate on practical solutions before involving authorities. Direct communication can quickly resolve problems, as neighbours may not realise they are causing a nuisance.

**Select location carefully** - When engaging in noisy activity, consider exploring alternative locations off your property for loud work by conducting them away from neighbours and sensitive areas, such as in a garage or shed. If work must be done on your property, select a spot as distant from neighbouring properties as feasible.

**Choose quiet equipment** - When buying equipment, enquire about the amount of noise it generates, where possible purchase the quietest equipment available. Replacing noisy equipment with a quieter or smaller model may help solve the

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**Install permanent equipment in an appropriate location** – Place fixed equipment and storage sheds as far from neighbouring properties as possible and avoid placing them near sensitive areas such as bedroom windows.

**Regular maintenance** – Consistent maintenance of equipment will reduce noise levels and enhance equipment performance. Failure to regularly maintain equipment can lead to inefficiency and increased noise emission. During maintenance inspections, be vigilant for any parts that may be causing rattling or banging against other surfaces. Ensure that any faulty components are promptly repaired or adjusted to minimize noise. For guidance, reach out to the manufacturer or installer.

**Install fences or barriers** – Installing solid fences or sound barriers around your property will

substantially reduce noise emissions. A solid fence with no gaps can reduce noise levels.

**Consider an acoustic enclosure** – Some fixed equipment, such as compressors and vacuum equipment can be enclosed in a wooden box with an absorbent lining and adequate ventilation. This can effectively reduce noise. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

**Modifications** – Sometimes modifications can be made to the activity or equipment to reduce noise. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

**Alternatives** – In some circumstances, alternative activities or equipment may be effective in producing less noise. Consider carrying out the activity inside or at another location.

## PERMITTED NOISE LIMITS




The table below details legal noise levels and times of use for equipment commonly used in our neighbourhoods. If you breach these regulations you are breaking the law. Noise occurring for extended periods of time, within legal timeframes and levels, can negatively impact nearby residents. Council can investigate these situations and issue direction notices and issue fines if required.

Equipment or activity	Time of use	Acceptable noise level at the affected premise
Air conditioning units and refrigeration equipment	7am-10pm	No more than 5 decibels (A) above background noise.
	10pm-7am	No more than 3 decibels (A) above background noise.
Pumps attached to water tanks, fountains, pools and spas.	7am-7pm	No more than 5 decibels (A) above background noise.
	7pm-10pm	No more than 3 decibels (A) above background noise.
	10pm-7am	No clearly audible noise.
Amplifying devices such as megaphones, excluding musical instruments and amplified music.	7am-10pm Monday to Friday. 8am-6pm Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.	No more than 10 decibels (A) above background noise.
	Before 7am and after 10pm Monday to Friday. Before 8am and after 6pm Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.	No clearly audible noise.
Powerboats on land.	Before 7am and after 7pm Monday to Saturday. Before 8am and after 6.30pm Sunday and public holidays.	No clearly audible noise.
Regulated devices, such as lawn mowers, generators and power tools.	Before 7am and after 7pm Monday to Saturday. Before 8am and after 7pm Sunday and public holidays.	No clearly audible noise.
Building work being carried out by a registered contractor or builder.	Before 6.30am and after 6.30pm Monday to Saturday. Anytime Sunday and public holidays.	No clearly audible noise.

## MANAGING A COMPLAINT

If you are unable to resolve the issue with your neighbour, you can lodge a complaint with Council.

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