



GUIDELINES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD NOISE

IN THE SHIRE OF PINGELLY

The Environmental Protection Act 1997 deals with the problem of noise and makes it an offence to create unreasonable noise. Noise is deemed “unreasonable” if it interferes directly or indirectly with the health, welfare, convenience, comfort or amenity of any person in any premises.

Regulations adopted under the Act limit the level of sound created at different times. The time of day when sound occurs can influence how intrusive it appears to the person hearing the sound. For example, the stereo late at night or very early in the morning is likely to annoy others more than during the day.

Environmental Health Officers working for Local Government play a key role in managing environmental noise pollution issues. Many are authorized Noise Officers under the act and are able to respond to complaints and assess different situations, adjusting their approach accordingly.

Noise is measured using a sound level meter adjusted to record sound in a similar way to the human ear.

Noisy Equipment on Residential Properties

Equipment like lawn mowers and trail bikes should be operated on residential properties for no more than two (2) hours between 7am and 7pm on Monday to Saturday or 9am and 7pm on a Sundays or public holidays.

Musical instruments may be used for no more than 1 hour each day between 7am and 7pm on Monday to Saturday or 9am and 7pm on a Sunday or public holiday.



Noise from power tools such as saws, drills, routers, and jigsaws are also commonly used, and create considerable noise. The noise can even warrant the use of earmuffs to protect the user from deafness. Controlling noise from these tools can be difficult and it is recommended that you use the tools at times and places that will minimize annoyance to your neighbours.

If possible, use tools out of direct line of sight to neighbours’ windows and doors. The best places are inside enclosed garages, in your house or behind a barrier.

Try to use the best tools or machine for the job, and one that will complete the work process in the shortest time possible. Avoid using tools in the early morning or evening.

Construction Sights

Noise from construction sites does not have to comply with the permitted noise levels where the equipment is the quietest reasonably available and where the noise occurs between 7am and 7pm on any day which is not a Sunday or public holiday. Where work occurs that is outside of these times, it is generally best to contact the builder concerned.

Noise from Animals and Pets

Noise from pets such as roosters, peacocks and cockatoos can be equally disruptive in residential areas. Unlike barking dogs, which are controlled by the Dog Act, noise from other pets must comply with certain set noise levels as are other noise sources. Generally owners of roosters, peacocks and cockatoos can eliminate noisy mornings by keeping the cages inside or covered with a dark, close weave cloth in the morning. Roosters and peacocks may also be kept quiet by keeping them overnight in a box or cage which allows them to comfortably stand, but does not allow them to extend their neck to crow.



Stereos, Pool Pumps, Air Conditioners and other Noise Sources

Other noise sources on residential properties such as stereos, pool pumps and air conditioners can be equally disruptive in residential areas. Noise from these sources is required to be within set noise levels.

Approaching your neighbour if they have equipment that is disturbing you may assist you to negotiate a way of reducing the impact of this noise on your property.

If you are annoyed by noise created by neighbours, there are a number of approaches you can take.

The first thing to do is to try to solve the problem amicably by talking it over with the person causing the problem, who, in many cases, will be only too happy to do what he or she can to help. If this approach is not successful, you should consider contacting Councils Health Department on 9887 1066. The Health Department deals with complaints relating to neighbourhood noise. It is a requirement that all noise complaints be in writing outlining the nature of the complaint, duration and exact location of the noise source.

Justifiable anonymous complaints may be investigated, but will not necessarily be given any priority.

Upon receipt of a complaint, a Noise Officer will visit noisy neighbour and attempt to resolve the problem without initiating formal action.

Noise from parties can be disturbing, particularly if it is excessive or happens regularly.

If you intend to have a party and are concerned that some neighbours might be upset about noise, try these suggestions:

- Close all windows and doors, if possible, and use exhaust fans or air conditioner to make the inside comfortable. This will help keep the party noise inside.
- Don't use speakers outside the house.
- Start your party earlier so that it can finish earlier.
- Set the volume control so as to ensure the music is not audible inside your neighbour's home after 10pm.
- If possible, use a room that has few windows and doors to the outside. Some rumpus rooms are built this way.

Community Activities and Noise

Some occasional community activities are not bound to meet noise restrictions, including:

- noise from spectators at a sporting activity;
- noise from calls to worship (eg. church bells) or associated with divine worship;
- noise from recreational or educational activities; and
- noise from agricultural shows, fairs, fetes and similar events.

Where a community event is likely to exceed the reasonable noise levels set by legislation, the organising committee may apply to Council for permission to exceed that noise level. However, monitoring requirements and a maximum permitted level of noise may still be applied.

Vehicle Movements and Traffic Noise

Noise associated with motor vehicles and traffic on the road, aircraft and train noise are not bound by the noise regulations. Similarly, if a machine has a safety warning device fitted and it is not practicable to reduce the volume of the warning, noise from these devices are not bound by these noise restrictions.

Where noise creates a problem, the quickest and easiest solution is generally to approach the owner of the property that is the source of the noise. This provides you the opportunity to negotiate a solution with your neighbour, and gives your neighbour the opportunity to fix the problem.

When approaching your neighbour regarding neighbourhood noise doesn't work, formal investigation of the noise may be requested by completing a Shire of Pingelly Noise Complaint Form.

For further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the Shire Office on (08) 9887 1066