



Operating power boat engine at premises - Noise

Noise Nuisance

The definition of Noise is a sound, especially one that is loud or unpleasant or that causes disturbance. Everyone reacts differently to noise. Noise that occurs early in the morning, late at night, on weekends or public holidays can disturb neighbours, disrupt their sleep and interfere with their normal daily activities. Even general noise such as listening to the TV, talking on the telephone if loud enough can impact on people's health and wellbeing. This fact sheet includes information for owners, occupiers and operators and is intended to help manage noise on premises and meet legal requirements.

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A person must not operate or permit the operation of a power boat engine at premises in a way that makes an audible noise during the following hours:

- Monday to Saturday - before 7am or after 7pm; or
- Sunday or public holiday - before 8am or after 6.30pm.

Operating a power boat engine includes flushing the engine.

What if there's a noise nuisance in my neighbourhood?

In most cases, the best way to resolve a noise issue is through polite and productive communication between yourself and the person causing the noise nuisance. If you haven't already spoken with the person about the noise, we strongly recommend you try this approach first.

Another option is to print out the Noise Nuisance Neighbourhood Handout available at www.gladstone.qld.gov.au, fill in your details (this is optional) and place it in the persons letterbox.

If you have concerns about approaching or entering communication with the person causing the nuisance, or these measures have proven ineffective, you can report the problem to Council with the address or the location of the property by phoning (07) 4977 6821 and we will begin our investigation.

How Council deals with Noise Nuisance

The Environmental Protection Act 1994, introduced by the State Government, includes guidelines for noise nuisances. Council is legally required to enforce these limits when the noise is emitted from premises. There are factors which will be considered when determining whether a noise nuisance is being caused which include:

- The day of the week and time at which the noise is occurring;
- The amount of noise being emitted;
- The duration and rate of emission and the noise characteristics, and qualities;
- The sensitivity of the environment into which the noise is being emitted and the impact that it has or may have; and
- Views of any other neighbours or complainants.

Council will investigate a Noise Nuisance issue upon receiving a customer request. If the noise is found to be a nuisance, Council may issue the person or business causing the noise with a 'direction notice' or an on the spot fine. A direction notice details what offence has taken place, and the time frame that the offender has to rectify the problem. If a direction notice is not complied with, Council may then issue an on-the-spot fine.

It is important to note that achieving compliance under this process sometimes takes in excess of six weeks.

Ways You Can Reduce Noise

1. **Limiting hours of use:** Talk to your neighbours to find out if there are particular times when the noise disturbs them. Most people are concerned about noise at night or early in the morning when they are trying to sleep.

2. **Location:** Carry out the noisy activity or locate equipment as far as possible from neighbours and away from sensitive areas (eg bedroom windows). It may be possible to carry out the activity in a garage or shed or in another location where the noise does not affect residents.
3. **Maintenance:** Old equipment and lack of maintenance can cause higher noise levels and reduce the effectiveness of the equipment. Faulty mufflers on engine-powered equipment are a common cause of noise. Contact the manufacturer for advice.
4. **Modifications:** Sometimes modifications can be made to the activity or equipment to reduce noise. Discuss this option with the manufacturer or installer.
5. **Alternatives:** If extensive running of a motor is required, consider having the work done at a workshop or another location.

Please contact Gladstone Regional Council's Environmental Health Unit on (07) 4977 6821, if you require further information on this topic.

How can you contact us?



(07) 4970 0700

STD CALLS: 1300 733 343

For those residents who currently incur STD call rates when contacting their local customer service centre



(07) 4975 8500



info@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au



www.gladstone.qld.gov.au

