

Neighbourhood Noise



June 2020

Environmental Health

Assigned noise levels are set out in the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*. The noise regulations set different levels for the type of premises receiving noise at various times of the day.

Party noise

Music noise emitted from a party will generally exceed the prescribed noise levels set but most neighbours tolerate the occasional party. Local police can be contacted for after-hours party noise or anti-social behaviour associated with a party:

- Margaret River police 9757 2222
- Augusta police 9758 3900.

If you are holding a party, try to notify neighbours in advance, keep the music as low as possible and switch off stereos at a reasonable hour.

Stereo noise

Complaints regarding stereo or home theatre noise that does not involve a party can be investigated by the Shire. An Environmental Health Officer from the Shire will determine if the noise is 'unreasonable' using noise measuring equipment or other means to determine if the noise complies with the noise regulations.

Construction noise

Noisy construction work on building sites can be carried out on Monday to Saturday, between 7am to 7pm.

The construction activities also have to comply with the *Australian Standard 2436 – 2010 Guide to noise and vibration control on construction, demolition and maintenance sites*. Equipment and methods used should be the quietest reasonably available or possible. Associated noise such as loud radios, are not permitted to exceed the required levels and must be managed. Quiet work, such as painting, is permitted at any time, including Sundays and public holidays but only if the noise complies with the regulations.

Reversing beepers on vehicles should be the broadband type or similar. Loud, continual 'beeping' is unlikely to comply with the noise regulations because it is not the quietest equipment available.

Construction or maintenance work outside the permitted hours may be approved by the Shire subject to valid reasons being given for doing the work, relevant approval conditions and an approved noise management plan.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NOISE

Barking dogs

Please call the Shire Ranger on 9780 5255 or 0419 902 540 (after hours).

Musical instruments

Musical instruments may be used in a reasonable manner for not more than one hour each day between the hours of 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 7pm Sundays or public holidays.

Equipment used on residential premises

Certain residential equipment – for example lawn mowers and power tools, may be used in a reasonable manner for not more than two hours each day between the hours of 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 7pm Sundays or public holidays.

Air conditioners and pool pumps

Noise from air conditioners and pool pumps are not to exceed the assigned noise levels in the noise regulations at any time. When operating such equipment it should be well maintained, used in a reasonable manner and at relevant times of the day so as not to disturb neighbours.

If purchasing and installing new equipment it should be the quietest reasonable available, and positioned where the least annoyance occurs.

Events, sporting activities and community gatherings

Noise from events and community gatherings in parks and private open spaces is permitted if the activity is approved by the Shire, well managed and notification of the event has occurred. Generally, noise associated with sporting activities in parks, ovals, schools or other specific venues is permitted and does not require approval or notification.

Transport noise

Aircraft noise is exempt from the noise regulations. Further information about general aircraft noise can be made to Airservices Australia on 1800 802 584.

Traffic noise is exempt from the noise regulations. Main Roads Western Australia may be able to assist on 138 138.

How to make a noise complaint

If the noise is disruptive and does not fit into one of the above exemptions, try initially to resolve the issue by speaking to the person causing the noise in a polite and respectful manner. They may be unaware of the issue. If this does not resolve the problem, you may consider mediation, discussions with local police or lodging a noise complaint with the Shire.

If you would like the Shire to investigate a noise complaint, in most cases you will be required to formalise your complaint by submitting a noise complaint form and noise diary. All complaints are treated anonymously

In most cases, complaints will be resolved by an Environmental Health Officer making contact with the owner/occupier of the property where the noise is occurring. If this does not resolve the issue, sound level readings may be taken which may result in enforcement action including infringement notices, seizure of equipment, noise abatement directions and environmental protection notices.