

# Noise Pollution

## Amplifier Devices

An amplifier device includes loud-hailers, megaphones, public address systems, remote telephone bells and telephone repeater bells.

Noise from amplifier devices can disturb neighbours, disrupt their sleep and interfere with their normal daily activities (listening to the TV, talking on the telephone). If loud enough, it can impact on people's health.

This fact sheet includes information that may assist residents to reduce noise emissions and meet legal requirements.

**Note: For stereo and radio noise, contact your local police.**

### Be a Good Neighbour

Take the time to talk to neighbours. Find out what concerns they may have and ask them for suggestions about solving any problems. Discuss noise concerns with neighbours before installing equipment that emits noise. In many cases an agreement can be reached that satisfies the needs of everyone.

### The Law

The *Environmental Protection Regulation 1998* introduced by the State Government include noise limits for amplifier devices. Council is legally required to enforce these limits when the noise is emitted from residential premises. If issues between neighbours cannot be reached and further complaints are made, Council will have to investigate. If an amplifier device exceeds noise limits, Council may issue the person who owns or operates the device with an on-the-spot fine.

### Allowable Noise Limits

If noise from an amplifier device can be heard at a neighbour's house during the following hours, the owner or operator of the device may be issued with an on-the-spot fine:

- 10:00pm – 7:00am on Monday – Friday  
- 6:00pm – 8:00am on a Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday.

On-the-spot fines may also be issued when noise from an amplifier device is greater than 10dB(A) above the background noise level between:

- 7:00am – 10:00pm on Monday – Friday  
- 8:00am – 6:00pm on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday.

### Ways You Can Reduce Noise

A range of measures can be used to reduce the noise impact of an amplifier device. These include:

#### **Limiting Hours of Use**

Talk to neighbours to find out if there are particular times when the noise disturbs them. People are often concerned about operation at night or early morning when they are trying to sleep.

#### **Selecting a Quieter Alternative**

Alternatives may be available that are quieter and do not disturb neighbours. For example, telephone repeater bells can be replaced with visual alarms (e.g. flashing lights) or a personal pager which alerts the receiver of a call.

#### **Location**

Locating amplifier devices as far as possible from neighbours and away from sensitive areas (e.g. bedroom windows) may reduce their impact.

#### **Fences or Barriers**

A solid fence may help to reduce noise levels. This won't be as effective if the fence has gaps.

### Amplifier Devices

The table below is a practical guide to different decibel levels:

Quiet room in the house 20-30 decibels  
Daytime in a quiet residential street 35-45 decibels  
Large busy office 50-60 decibels  
Lawn mower from 15 metres away 70 decibels

**For further information on this topic, please contact Gladstone Regional Council's - Environmental Health Section on 4970 0772.**