

Indoor Venues

Indoor venues are defined as a building used for musical, sporting or other entertainment or cultural or religious activities, but does not include a licensed premise or a building being used for an open-air event. Examples of indoor events that are required to comply with these noise standards include 10 pin bowling, concerts, indoor cricket, religious worship or squash, to name a few.

This type of nuisance is described as having an impact on an environmental value and is defined in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* as; “a quality of physical characteristic of the environment that is conducive to ecological health of public amenity or safety; or another quality of the environment identified and declared to be an environmental value under an environmental protection policy or regulation.” If these types of environmental nuisances occur loud enough, it can impact on people’s health and general wellbeing.

The Law

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* introduced by the State Government include noise limits for indoor events. Council is legally required to enforce these limits. If issues cannot be resolved and further complaints are made, Council will have to investigate. If an amplifier device exceeds noise limits, Council may issue the responsible person or organisation with an on-the-spot fine or a Direction Notice.

Consider noise impact on nearby residential properties

Section 440W states the following: “An occupier of buildings must not use, or permit the use of, the building as an indoor venue on any day-

- before 7a.m. if the use makes an audible noise; or
- from 7a.m. to 10p.m, if the use makes a noise of more than 5dB(A) above the background level; or
- from 10p.m. to midnight, if the use makes a noise of more than 3dB(A) above the background level.”

The following exemptions apply:

1. If the building is, or is part of an educational institution; and
2. The use of the building as an indoor venue is organised by or for the educational institution for non-commercial purposes of the institution.

“**audible noise**” is defined as “noise that can be clearly heard by an individual who is an occupier of a building”.



Ways you can reduce noise

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

- Limiting Hours
Talk to neighbours to find out if there are particular times when the noise disturbs them. Most people are often concerned about operation at night or early morning when they are trying to sleep.
- Reduce Emissions
Ensure entry doors are closed especially early in the morning or late at night. Consider structural changes, i.e. include sound proofing and/or repositioning speakers away from door and window openings.

Below is a practical guide to different decibel levels

- Quiet room in the house 20-30 dB(A)
- Daytime in a quiet residential street 35-45 dB(A)
- Large busy office 50-60 dB(A)
- Lawn mower from 15 meters away 70 dB(A)

For further information please contact:

Environmental Health Services at Mount Isa City Council on 4747 3200

