

Power Boats on Premises

Owners of powerboats often run their engines for testing or maintenance (e.g. flushing the engine). This noise may negatively impact on an environmental value, eg. disturb neighbours, disrupt their sleep and interfere with their normal daily activities (e.g. listening to the TV, talking on the telephone). If loud enough noise can negatively impact on people's health.

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. In many cases an agreement can be reached that satisfy everyone's needs. Consider talking to your neighbour before reporting the nuisance to Council.

The Law

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* introduced by the State Government include noise limits for operating powerboat engines. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and further complaints are made, Council will have to investigate. If a power boat exceeds noise limits between the following hours, Council may issue the person who owns or operates the boat with a Direction Notice or an on-the-spot fine.

- Before 7:00am or after 7:00pm on a Saturday or business day
- Before 8:00am or after 6:30pm on any other day (a Sunday or public holiday).

Ways to reduce noise

A range of measures can be used to reduce the noise impact of a powerboat. These include:

- a) Limiting hours of use
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.
- b) Location
Carry out testing and maintenance as far as possible from neighbours and away from sensitive areas (e.g. bedroom windows). It may be possible to carry out some work in a garage or shed.
- c) Alternatives
If extensive running of a motor is required, consider having the work done at a workshop or another location.

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