

Waste Receptacles

Noise from commercial activities, such as waste recovery and transportation may disturb residents, disrupt their sleep and interfere with their normal daily activities (listening to the TV, talking on the telephone, conducting business). If loud and frequent enough, it can impact on people's health.

The Law

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* introduced by the State Government, requires waste transporters undertaking waste management works within the town to apply for an approval. Generally, these approvals contain conditions relating to noise management. These conditions may include restricting the hours of operation (6am to 6pm) and the application of specific noise criteria.

When noise is created in contravention of the activity's conditions, Council will investigate under the *Environmental Protection Act*, to ensure compliance. If the contravention continues, Council may issue the offender with a Notice. The Notice states that the operator's waste management approval is going to be cancelled due to a breach of condition. If the breach of condition is not remedied, Council may cancel the existing approval and issue a fine.

The Criteria

When investigating a noise complaint, Council will consider:

- The amount of noise being emitted;
- The duration and rate of emission and the noise's characteristics and qualities;
- The sensitivity of the environment into which the noise is being emitted and the impact that it has or may have;
- Views of any other neighbours or complainants; and
- The conditions of the operator's waste management work approval.

Ways to reduce noise

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

- a) Limiting hours of use
General hours of operation for waste management works approvals are between the hours of 6am to 6pm. Most people are concerned about noise at night or early in the morning when they are trying to sleep.
- b) Location
Locate waste receptacles as far as possible from neighbours and away from sensitive areas (e.g. bedroom windows). If possible, try to relocate the receptacle behind a solid wall.
- c) Timing
Schedule collection routes to suit the activity. If the collection is particularly noisy and located near residences, try to organise for collection to be carried out after midday such that any shift workers are less likely to be disturbed.

d) Alternatives

Alternative activities or equipment may be effective in reducing noise. Consideration should be given to carrying out the activity inside a building structure or at another location; or even engaging an acoustic consultant in designing an acoustic barrier.

For further information please contact:

Environmental Health Services at Mount Isa City Council on 4747 3200