

# Neighbourhood Noise Information Guide

**The *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997* specify allowable sound levels that should not be exceeded.**

These sound levels vary dependant on the time of the day and the day of the week. Noise can be described as unwanted sound and may be considered unreasonable when it exceeds these sound levels.

Under the *Environmental Protection Act* it is an offence to create unreasonable noise. Regulations made under the Act allow for different maximum levels of noise at certain times depending on when it is most likely to be a nuisance.

For example loud noise late at night or very early in the morning is more likely to be unreasonable than noise during the day.

If you are concerned about unwanted noise, the first step is to locate the noise source. If a neighbour is creating the noise, all that may be required to resolve the matter is a friendly approach towards your neighbour. However, if you cannot resolve the matter or feel uncomfortable approaching your neighbour, please contact either:

- a. 24 hour Police Assistance 131 444 for one off events such as loud parties.
- b. The City of Armadale 9394 5000 for ongoing or regular events.

## Air Conditioning Units

### **Why is it so important to select the location of an air conditioner carefully?**

Noise from air conditioners can disturb neighbours. The noise can disrupt sleep, interfere with normal daily activities and can have significant impacts on people's health. Installation of an air conditioner that emits unreasonable noise is illegal.

Before installing an air conditioning unit it is important to consider whether the location is likely to have an unreasonable impact on your neighbours. The City may require relocation of a noisy air conditioner or modification to reduce the noise if necessary.

### **Who is responsible for ensuring air conditioners are installed so that they do not emit unreasonable noise?**

Section 80 of the *Environmental Protection Act* places responsibility on installers of equipment to ensure that an air conditioner does not emit unreasonable noise and if an occupier is convicted of committing an offence under the Act because of unreasonable noise being emitted by any equipment which was installed by an installer, that occupier may recover the cost of the installation, together with the amount of any penalty imposed on him from the installer by action in court.

The penalty for an offence under Section 80 (1) is \$5000 for an individual or body corporate.

For more detailed information, refer to the Department of Environment Regulation publication entitled An Installers Guide to Air Conditioner Noise.

## Do You Need Further Information?

Should you require any further information regarding neighbourhood noise, visit the City's website or contact one of the City's Environmental Health Officers.

Please note this information sheet is intended as a guide only.

Should you wish to view a copy of the relevant legislation, the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*, visit the State Law Publishers website [www.slp.wa.gov.au](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au).