

Operating power boat engines at premises

Owners or repairers of power boat engines may run them for testing or maintenance, such as flushing the engine. Noise from such activities may disturb residents, disrupt sleep and interfere with normal daily activities. If loud and frequent enough, it can also impact on people's health or work environment.

This fact sheet includes information to help you reduce noise emissions and meet legal requirements.

Be a good neighbour

Talk to your neighbours about their concerns and try to resolve any problems. In many cases, an agreement can be reached that satisfies everyone.

The law

Queensland's *Environmental Protection Act 1994* includes noise limits for operating* power boat engines. Council is legally required to enforce these limits. If issues cannot be resolved and complaints are ongoing, Council will investigate. If a power boat engine exceeds noise limits, Council may issue the owner or operator with a fine to the value of 15 penalty units (individual) or 75 penalty units (corporation). Refer to the Local Government Toolbox website www.lgtoolbox.qld.gov.au for more information about penalty units.

*operating includes flushing the engine.

Allowable noise limits

If noise from a power boat engine can be clearly heard at a neighbouring property between the following hours:

- before 7am or after 7pm on a week day or Saturday
- before 8am or after 6.30pm on Sundays and public holidays

the owner or operator may be issued with a fine.

Ways to reduce noise

Consider these measures to reduce the noise impact of a power boat engine.

Limit hours of use

Talk to neighbours about when the noise disturbs them, which for most people is at night or early in the morning when they are trying to sleep.

Choose location carefully

Carry out testing and maintenance away from areas such as bedroom windows and offices. An enclosed garage or shed may be a suitable option depending on its location.

If extensive running of a motor is required, consider an alternative suitable location.

For more information on this topic, contact your local Council.