



Operating power boat engines

Owners or repairers of power boat engines may run them at their premises for testing or maintenance (example: flushing the engine). This noise may disturb neighbours or building occupants, disrupt their sleep and interfere with their normal daily activities. If loud enough, it can impact on people's health or work environment. This fact sheet includes information that can help people to reduce noise emissions and meet legal requirements.

Be a good neighbour

Take the time to talk to neighbours and building occupants, discuss their concerns and try to resolve any problems. In many cases, an agreement can be reached that satisfies everyone's needs.

The law

The *Environmental Protection Act* includes noise limits for operating* power boat engines. Council of the City of Gold Coast (Council) is legally required to enforce these limits when noise is being emitted from a boat at a premises. If issues between persons cannot be resolved and further complaints are made, Council will investigate.

If a power boat engine exceeds noise limits, Council may issue the offender with an on-the-spot fine to the value of 15 penalty units (for an individual) or 75 penalty units (for a corporation). See the City website for information about penalty unit values.

*'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, the owner or operator may be issued with an on-the-spot fine.

- Before 7am or after 7pm on a business day or Saturday.
- Before 8am or after 6:30pm on any other day.

Ways you can reduce noise

Reducing noise

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

Limiting hours of use

Talk to neighbours and building occupants to find out if there are particular times when the noise disturbs them. Most people are concerned about noise at night or early in the morning when they are trying to sleep.

Location

Carry out testing and maintenance as far away as possible from neighbours or occupied buildings and away from sensitive areas (e.g. bedroom windows, offices). It may be possible to carry out some work in a garage or shed.

Alternatives

If extensive running of a motor is required, consider having the work done at a more appropriate location.

For more information

P 07 5581 6220
E mail@goldcoast.qld.gov.au
W cityofgoldcoast.com.au