Transportation noise
Health Services Information Fact Sheet

In most cases transportation noise is not subject to the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997.* This is due to the fact that it is often controlled by other means such as approval processes and licensing requirements.

Vehicle Noise

Traffic noise from the roads is exempt from the Regulations. Instead it is addressed by design standards intended to keep the noise from the vehicle to an acceptable level. Problems from individual noisy vehicles on public roads which have been modified or not properly maintained may be reported to the Police on 131 444. Similarly noise from burnouts should be reported to the Police under the anti hoon legislation.

Noise from vehicles on private property is not exempt from the Regulations. Vehicles exiting and entering the property will generally not create a nuisance due to the extremely short time period of travel. Vehicles being operated for prolonged periods on the property (such as motorbikes being ridden in the back yard) have to comply with the Regulations. If you are experiencing noise issues from vehicles on private property you may lodge a noise complaint with the City.

Rail Noise

Noise from rail is exempt from the requirements of the Regulations. Despite this fact noise from the following services is dealt with by the indicated organisation.

Passenger Trains:

The Public Transport Authority deals with noise issues that arise from passenger trains. If you have any issues regarding noise issues on the passenger line (including noise from railway crossings) please contact the PTA on 13 62 13.

Freight Trains:

There are different freight train operators. Aurizon (formerly QR National) is one of the main operators and deals with issues of freight train noise. Contact Aurizon on 13 23 32 for more information on freight train noise. Please note that having information of the train line, train type, date and time of issue will help Aurizon direct your complaint to the correct freight operator.

Aircraft Noise

Noise from aircraft is exempt from the Regulations. Airservices Australia determine the flight paths for aircraft. Aircraft noise issues can be reported to them on 1800 802 584.

Boat Noise

Noise from boats is generally managed by allocating set areas for certain activities (skiing/jet boating) and restricting boat speed along the river. If you experience issues of noise from boats this should be reported to the Swan River Trust on 9278 0900.

Noise Barriers

For new major infrastructure projects, despite transport noise being exempt from the Regulations, conditions are often placed on the approval requiring actions to minimise the effects from noise. This is commonly seen as noise barriers or sound walls but may also take the form of other requirements such as the need for double glazing on nearby development.

Unfortunately the City's ability to consider these requirements can only be done on new development. It can not be placed on existing roads retrospectively. You can however raise this issue with Main Roads on 138 138.

After Hours Repairs

Repair and maintenance work of major roads and rail network is often done after hours. The main reason for this is to minimise the level of disruption to the many users during peak times of use.

Work is usually of a temporary nature and companies undertaking this work apply for a specific noise exemption. Approval is granted by the City only after it is satisfied of the need for the work and that the measures and equipment used to minimise the level of noise are appropriate. Nearby residents must be advised in advance of the intended after hours works.

General Information

Where the City receives a noise complaint an investigation will be undertaken as per established procedures. For more information on this as well as possible enforcement options please refer to the City's Neighbourhood Noise fact sheet.

If you require further information about noise, you may contact the City of Swan's Health Services on 9267 9267.