

Air Pollution

Dirt and Dust

Construction, excavation, landscaping and driving on unsealed roads can all cause dust and dirt. Sometimes dust and dirt can affect neighbours and interfere with their normal activities. If severe enough, it can damage property and impact on people's health.

The law

Council investigates most dust and dirt emissions using the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Some sites have a development approval with conditions. Council investigates complaints about these sites using the *Planning Act 2016*.

If the dust is determined to be a nuisance, Council may issue the person causing the dust with a Direction Notice, which will detail the offence and the time frame the offender has to rectify the problem.

Council may also issue a fine to the value of 15 penalty units (individual) or 75 penalty units (corporation).

How to reduce dirt and dust air pollution

You can reduce dust and dirt emissions by:

- checking weather conditions when planning work
- watering down roadways or dusty areas
- retaining as many plants and grass as possible
- using on-site waste as a dust barrier (e.g. green waste could be mulched and spread on the ground)

Complaints not investigated by Council

- environmentally relevant activities regulated by the Department of Environment and Science (e.g. chemical manufacturing)
- an environmentally relevant activity regulated by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (e.g. poultry farming)
- a state or local government premises or activity; this is the responsibility of the Department of Environment and Science.
- erecting a dust fence or tree rows

- using hydro mulch for large areas
- using property access points away from neighbours
- limiting vehicle speeds and consider reducing the time vehicles use unsealed roads.

Complaints

In most cases, the best way to resolve an air pollution issue is through polite and productive communication between yourself and the person causing the air pollution. If you haven't already spoken with the person about the issue, we strongly recommend you try this approach first.

You could also download the Environmental Nuisance letter from our [website](#), and place it in their letterbox. If you have concerns about approaching or entering communication, or these measures have proven ineffective, you can lodge a complaint with Council by:



Phone: (07) 5329 6500



Email: mail@noosa.qld.gov.au



Council Office: 9 Pelican Street, Tewantin

You will need to provide:

- your name, address and phone number (kept confidential)
- details of the emission, including source address and the date and time it starts

To help you keep track of the details of the emissions, it is a good idea to fill out a daily log that you can submit with your complaint.