

Noise nuisance

Power boat on waterways

Noise from power boats and jet skis on waterways can disturb residents, disrupt sleep and interfere with normal daily activities.

The law

Under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, restrictions apply to the use of power boats and personal watercraft. This aims achieve a balance for people living on and near waterways and motorised watercraft users.

Council is legally required to enforce the noise restrictions under the act and can issue a fine to the value of 15 penalty units (individual) or 75 penalty units (corporation) for offences.

Do the right thing at boat ramps

Under Council's Local Laws, running a personal watercraft motor 'out-of-water' may be prohibited at boat ramps.

Please take note of signage at boat ramps or contact Council for further information.

Allowable noise limits

A person must not use a power boat, or permit the use of a power boat, in a waterway for a power boat sport if the use makes audible noise for the same affected building for more than a continuous period of two minutes:

- on a business day or Saturday, before 7am or after 7pm
- on any other day, before 8am or after 6.30pm

How to reduce noise

Limit hours of use

- Avoid using your power boat or jet ski in the early morning when people are sleeping, or late afternoon and evening when conditions are usually calm and noise travels further.

Choose location carefully

Try to stay away from homes so the noise does not disturb other people using the waterway or living in the area. If you do operate near these areas, limit your time in the one location, to reduce the noise impacts on the same residents.

Select a 'quiet' product

Older two-stroke powerboat models may create more noise than the new breed of quieter four-stroke motors.

Know the marine safety laws

Maritime Safety Queensland laws regulate the safety and operation of power boats, which include:

- 'wave jumping' and 'freestyling' - erratic and non-directional driving
- skiing or towing
- exceeding speed limits
- operating power boats close to people in the water, moored vessels, jetties, boat ramps or pontoons, or the shore.

For further information on marine safety laws, contact Maritime Safety Queensland, or visit their website at www.msq.qld.gov.au.

Complaints

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 noise emission, including source address and the date and time it starts