

# Development Information Sheet 21

## Construction Noise

### What is construction noise?

Construction noise is noise that arises from an activity at a construction site that includes:

- demolition work, site preparation work, and building maintenance or repair work; and
- the operation of vehicles within, entering or leaving a construction site; and
- any activities at, or within the immediate vicinity of a construction site, of persons who perform work at the site, or activity connected with work at the site.

Construction noise with an adverse impact on amenity occurs if the measurements taken in relation to the noise source and the noise affected premises show:

- the source noise level (continuous) exceeds 45 dB(A); or
- the source noise level (maximum) exceeds 60 dB(A).

### When can construction noise occur?

Construction noise that causes an adverse impact on amenity is only permitted between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Saturday.

Normal construction activity is not permitted to occur outside of these hours or on a Sunday or Public Holiday without written permission from the Town of Walkerville by way of exemption.

These restrictions are not intended to restrict silent or very quiet construction activities such as painting, or other activities that do not require the use of machinery or other annoying noise such as hammering.

Very quiet activities can occur at any time but the permissible noise levels are intentionally set very low and if there is any doubt then these activities should not occur outside of the hours of 7 am and 7 pm Monday to Saturday.

### What can I do about my neighbour's construction noise?

If you are being affected by construction noise, you can try contacting the responsible person in a friendly manner. They may not realise the effect the noise is having on nearby residents. Subject to the noise type, often the builder or site workers can immediately reduce the noise. That is, they can speak more quietly, turn down radios, use quieter equipment or move machinery away from the affected house.

You may also lodge a complaint with the Town of Walkerville via the methods detailed below:

**Post:** Town of Walkerville, PO Box 55, Walkerville SA 5081

**Phone:** (08) 8342 7100

**Facsimile:** (08) 8408 1122

**Email:** [walkerville@walkerville.sa.gov.au](mailto:walkerville@walkerville.sa.gov.au)

### What can I do to mitigate construction noise from my own building site?

The responsible person for a given construction site should not undertake any activity with an adverse impact on amenity outside of the restricted times described above.

Where noise may unreasonably impact on neighbours, the responsible person should notify neighbours well before the construction is due to commence and advise neighbours about the start date, duration, type of construction and provide a contact telephone number for any complaints.

All reasonable and practicable measures must be taken to minimise noise resulting from the activity and to minimise its impact such as:

- radios that can be heard off site should not be used before 7 am, and be no louder than necessary
- commencing any particularly noisy part of the activity after 9 am, such as use of masonry saws or jackhammers
- builders should take care when dropping materials from a height, for example, into or out of a truck, or when loading or unloading scaffolding
- locating noisy equipment (such as cement mixers and masonry saws) so that their impact on neighbouring premises is minimised (whether by maximising the distance to the neighbouring premises, using structures or elevations to create sound barriers)
- shutting or throttling down equipment (such as backhoes, cranes, bobcats, loaders and generators) whenever they are not in actual use
- ensuring that noise reduction devices such as mufflers are fitted and operating effectively
- adopting off-site or other alternative processes that eliminate or lessen resulting noise
- ensuring that equipment is not operated if maintenance or repairs would eliminate or significantly reduce noise.

### **Concrete pours**

Concrete pours, which generate noise with an adverse impact on amenity, are subject to the same restricted hours of operation as other types of construction activities. However, due to the effect of temperature on the structural integrity of concrete, it is acknowledged that on some occasions it may be desirable to commence concreting activities outside of the restricted times.

In these instances, builders should:

- seek formal approval from the Town of Walkerville to undertake work outside of the restricted hours;
- take additional steps to inform neighbours of their activities and ensure all reasonable and practicable measures are taken to minimise noise (as above) and includes:
- complete all shuttering and other site preparations before 7pm the previous day unless it can be done in a way that does not create off-site noise.

### **What instances will Council consider issuing an exemption to when construction noise can occur?**

An application for an activity to occur outside of normal construction hours will only be granted under exceptional circumstances which may include an unreasonable interruption to metropolitan services technical construction requirements, or safety reasons.

Examples include the installation or removal of cranes or scaffolding near busy roads, very large concrete pours (such as a commercial building scale project) or other unusual circumstances.

### **How to apply for an exemption**

In order to apply for an exemption from Section 18 of the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016* to undertake activity that generates construction noise outside of the permitted times, you are required to complete the Permission to Undertake Out of Hours Construction Works form.

\* Forms are available from Council's website at <http://www.walkerville.sa.gov.au/developmentforms>

For construction activity that is to take place over a period not exceeding 24 hours – an application needs to be submitted to council at least 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the activity.

For construction activity that is to take place over a period of 24 hours or longer – an application needs to be submitted to council at least 4 weeks prior to the commencement of the activity.

Development Information Guides are intended to help applicants to submit applications which are complete, well prepared, and can be processed efficiently. The information provided is intended as a general guide only and applicants are encouraged to refer to the Town of Walkerville Development Plan and to seek professional advice if necessary. This information is subject to frequent updates. This version last updated in January 2018.

Access the Development Plan and current versions of information guides at <http://www.walkerville.sa.gov.au/>

**Should you have any further enquiries or wish to discuss this process, please do not hesitate to contact the Planning and Environment team via:**

**In Person:** Planning and Environment, 66 Walkerville Terrace, Gilberton SA 5081

**Post:** Town of Walkerville, PO Box 55, Walkerville SA 5081

**Phone:** (08) 8342 7100

**Facsimile:** (08) 8408 1122

**Email:** [walkerville@walkerville.sa.gov.au](mailto:walkerville@walkerville.sa.gov.au)