

STEREO/MUSIC AND PARTY NOISE

Regulations/restrictions on stereo music

Stereo music can be played as long as it does not unreasonably interfere with the health, comfort or convenience of an occupier of a premises receiving the noise and it complies with the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*.

To reduce the risk of disturbing neighbors, consider these tips

- Keep music as low as possible, especially at night, ensure bass control on the stereo is turned down.
- Keep it at a level that cannot be heard at your boundary
- Use headphones or listen to music on a personal stereo late at night
- Position speakers away from neighbors and keep windows and doors closed so the noise doesn't travel
- Do not locate speakers outside of your dwelling.

Role of the Council's Health Service

Council's Noise Officers may be able to assist in helping to resolve stereo noise issues between neighbors, during normal business hours.

Complaints are investigated by Council's Noise Officers to help ensure, stereo noise does not affect the health, comfort, or convenience of any person.

City officers do not attend complaints after-hours (evenings/ night time) concerning noise. Due to the nature of after-hours parties, Council noise officers are not suitably equipped or trained to safely attend and effectively gather satisfactory evidence to deal with after-hours party/stereo noise.

In the case of after-hours party/stereo noise issues, the City is limited to an educational approach and can discuss with residents the impact their behavior may be having on neighbors, provide advice on how to effectively manage stereo noise & provide warning as to the consequences should the police attend.

Role and powers of the Police

The Police are authorized persons for the purposes of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The Police operate 24/7 and are adequately equipped and trained to attend after hours parties where residents and guests may be intoxicated with alcohol and other drugs. For this reason, the City considers the Police to be the primary respondents to after-hours noise complaints.

While police attendance is prioritized against all other complaints they receive at that time, experience has shown the Police can be very effective in helping to resolve stereo noise complaints, particularly those that occur between 5:00pm and 7:00am.

When the police attend, if they determine noise to be unreasonable, the Police have the power to:

- Issue infringement notices,
- Seize noisy equipment,
- Issue a noise abatement direction, and
- Prosecute for failing to comply with a noise abatement direction.

To ensure the best response for stereo / party noise outside of business hours call police on 131 444 as soon as you experience the unreasonable noise. If you continue to experience unreasonable noise and the police have not yet attended, continue to call the 131 444 number and make frequent subsequent reports.

When making a report to the police be sure to record the reference number provided. If your neighbors routinely engage in behavior which causes an unreasonable disturbance and you fail to get a satisfactory police response, attending your local police station with a history of your reports asking the question as to what action the police can or will take in line with their powers listed above and if they have not, why not?

If noise from music is causing you annoyance you may find it helpful to take one of more of the following steps

- Speak politely to the person using the stereo to make them aware that it causes you annoyance. It may be helpful to let the person know that it affects you, as they may not realize it causes you concern, and it gives them the opportunity to change their actions.
- Speak to your surrounding neighbors who may also be impacted and encourage them to also make reports to the police.
- If the stereo noise continues to cause you concern, you may lodge your concern with the City on 1300 422 664 and officers can attend to discuss and educate residents.