Power boat engine noise

Owners or repairers of power boat engines may run them for testing or maintenance, such as flushing the engine.

Noise from such activities on residential premises may disturb residents, disrupt sleep and interfere with normal daily activities. If loud and frequent enough, it can also impact on people’s health or work environment.

Be a good neighbour

Talk to your neighbours about their concerns and try to resolve any problems. In many cases, an agreement can be reached that satisfies everyone.

The law

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1994, a person must not operate or permit the operation of, a power boat engine at premises in a way that makes an audible noise:
- on a business day or Saturday, before 7am or after 7pm; or
- on any other day, before 8am or after 6.30pm.

Council will investigate if issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and further complaints are made.

If a power boat engine operates outside of the requirements, Council may issue a direction notice detailing the noise nuisance and giving a timeframe for problems to be rectified, or issue an on the spot fine.

Reducing noise

Talk to neighbours about when the noise disturbs them, which for most people is at night or early in the morning when they are trying to sleep.

Carry out testing and maintenance away from areas, such as bedroom windows and offices. An enclosed garage or shed may be a suitable option depending on its location.

If extensive running of a motor is required, consider an alternative suitable location.

For more information
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