

## 12 NOISE

### ISSUE

The adverse effects of noise are an issue in both urban and rural areas where noise may have an adverse effect on the health of people and communities and their enjoyment of the District, as well as an effect on natural values.

#### *Explanation*

*While there is always background noise, some noise can give rise to nuisance and even health problems through either its character, duration, or time of occurrence. Some activities, including certain industrial processes and motorsports, are inherently noisy while other activities can give rise to noise effects from the people and traffic attracted to them, e.g. public halls, licensed premises and all night service stations.*

*In natural areas, including on the surface of water, noise detracts from the intrinsic values of such areas. The management of noise issues in the Coastal Marine Area is a function of the Canterbury Regional Council but can have an effect on the adjoining land.*

### OBJECTIVE

- (1) Minimise the situations where there is conflict between noise emissions from land use activities and other more sensitive land uses.

#### *Principal Reason*

*Where activities such as motorsport, which emit high noise levels, and more sensitive uses such as dwellings are in close proximity (as they are at the Timaru International Raceway) there is potential for conflict about adverse noise effects and degradation of amenity values. This should be avoided where practical, or means found to mitigate the effects where practical. There are already a number of noise generating activities as well as motor racing including Port of Timaru Limited, Richard Pearse Airport, Main South Railway, arterial roads and industrial areas where more sensitive activities such as nearby residential use could be adversely affected by noise.*

### POLICY

- (1) To avoid or mitigate effects of noise on residential uses and other sensitive areas, by limiting noise emissions within residential, rural and natural areas, and by discouraging residential and other sensitive uses from locating close to land zoned or used for noisy activities.

### *Explanation and Principal Reason*

*The simplest and most effective way to minimise conflicts between land use over noise is to achieve separation of the land uses wherever possible. Industrial, commercial and recreational activities which produce high levels of noise should not be located in residential areas or where there are high natural values. Industrial and commercial activities are best located within or adjacent to existing industrial and commercial areas where noise has a lesser effect. Recreational activities which generate noise, such as motorsports, are best located in those rural areas where there are relatively few dwellings. Some impact on rural dwellings will still occur but there are fewer people affected. Where noisy activities in rural areas are not clustered together, and the frequency of use is limited, the adverse effects are lessened.*

### **METHODS**

- (1) (a) Using zoning, listing of activities, and setting noise levels within the District Plan to provide for a variable quality of acoustic environment appropriate to different parts of the District (see Zone Rules and General Rule 6.21).

#### *Principal Reason*

*Some controls are required to prevent excessive noise in different zones. The character of noise changes according to the type of use. Industrial or machinery noise is more readily addressed through maximum noise levels. Crowd or people noise is better addressed through identifying suitable activities for particular zones and limiting time, duration and frequency of occurrence.*

*Road traffic noise is an expected outcome for activities choosing to locate adjacent to roads and is not specifically controlled in the District Plan.*

*Specific noise levels are provided for temporary military training activities. Such noise is sporadic and generally of short duration but sometimes is loud and startling and can generally be compared with noise originating from demolition or construction. The construction noise provisional standard New Zealand Standard 6803P:1984 contains guidelines which provide a useful basis for mitigation of noise from temporary military training activities.*

- (b) Advocating to the Canterbury Regional Council that administration of noise creating activities on the surface of

water in the Coastal Marine Area be controlled to be compatible with nearby land uses.

*Principal Reason*

*To minimise noise conflicts with adjacent land uses.*

- (2) Investigate the adverse effects of road traffic noise on noise sensitive land uses and consider adopting any relevant New Zealand standard.

*Principal Reason*

*To address issues related to road traffic noise.*

### **OBJECTIVE**

- (2) See Objective (1).

### **POLICY**

- (2) To provide rules setting noise limits adequate for the protection of community health and welfare while enabling control of reasonable noise emissions from activities.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*In those zones where significant noise emissions might be anticipated from activities it is appropriate to have noise limits. In Residential Zones, where no limits are specified where an activity gains a resource consent which is appropriate to have a condition relating to noise attached to it then Council shall have regard to the noise limits applicable at the zone boundaries.*

- (3) To rely on the statutory provisions of the Resource Management Act to address noise problems, where there is no suitable standard laid down by the District Plan or by conditions of a resource consent.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*Noise standards are not provided in Residential Zones because there can be a considerable degree of variation throughout the District. For example, the noise levels experienced by residential activities located adjacent to State Highway 1 will be much higher than those experienced by people residing in a quiet cul-de-sac.*

*The Council has statutory obligations under the Resource Management Act to address noise nuisance issues when a complaint is received e.g. loud parties. Noise generated by long standing*

*industrial activities with existing use rights in residential areas is best dealt with under the excessive noise provisions of the Act.*

*Section 16 of the Resource Management Act imposes a duty on everyone to ensure that the emission of noise does not exceed a reasonable level.*

### **METHOD**

- (2) The Council will respond to noise complaints on a 24 hour basis and take enforcement action where it considers that unreasonable or excessive noise is being made (see sections 326-328 Resource Management Act).

#### *Principal Reason*

*To carry out the Council's obligations under the Resource Management Act in respect of monitoring and enforcement to relieve the adverse effects of noise which give rise to nuisance situations.*

### **ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES**

- (1) A variable acoustic environment in different areas of the District with a high degree of separation of incompatible land uses.
- (2) The health of people in communities is adequately protected from noise emissions.

### **MONITORING**

- (1) Recording and evaluation of complaints so that performance standards for noise can be reassessed after eight years.
- (1) Monitoring of conditions of consent which limit the levels and frequency of noise that can be generated.