

REGULATION 18

Applicant Guideline



**CITY OF
PERTH**
City of Light





Purpose

The City of Perth Strategic Community Plan 2022 – 2032 adopts three strategic pillars of liveable, sustainable and prosperous to capture the community's aspirations for the future.

The City is committed to serving the community in this regard through the support and approval of a range of different events.

This guideline has been developed for event organisers to assist with:

- minimum requirements for Regulation 18 applications
- criteria on noise intensity and event duration.
- the assessment process under *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 (WA)* (Noise Regulations).
- supporting events and ensure their viability.
- minimising noise impacts on local communities by providing clear thresholds for different event types.

Definitions

'**CEO**' means the chief executive officer of local government as per delegated authority from the CEO of DER (now DWER) on 12 December 2013 (page 6282 of Government Gazette – 20 December 2013).

'**DWER**' means Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (state government).

'**Noise Management Plan**' refers to a document on projected noise emissions and how impacts will be managed prior to, during, and following an event.

'**Noise Regulations**' means *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 (WA)*

'**Regulation 18**' is used to refer to 'Approved sporting, cultural and entertainment events' as outlined in Regulation 18 of the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 (WA)*.

Technical sound terms used throughout this Guideline can be found in the rear of the document.



What must I do to get a Regulation 18?

1

Advise the City of your intention to apply for a Regulation 18 (preferably 6 months prior to the proposed event date) by reviewing the Regulation 18 Applicant Checklist (Appendix 2) and gathering the required information.

The City will then advise if the event is within the number of Regulation 18s the City can permit at the proposed venue. (Appendix 1)

If your proposed event is beyond the number of Regulation 18s the City can permit for a particular venue, you may need to:

- consider another date or venue that can accommodate your event, or
- engage a Community Research Consultant to undertake a community survey to determine if the majority of occupants within the vicinity of the venue do not object to you holding the additional event at the particular venue. The survey must be carried out in accordance with the City of Perth Regulation 18 (11) Community Survey Guideline which is accessible on the City's website.

2

If the City advises the event can be permitted as a Regulation 18 event, you will need to engage a suitably qualified Acoustic Consultant ([click here](#) for more details) to prepare a Noise Management Plan that complies with this guideline.

The Acoustic Consultant must have experience with acoustic modelling and monitoring of event noise. Provide the details from Step 1 to a consultant and ask them to produce a noise contour map (see Appendix 4) that extends to $L_{Aeq} 50dB$ and $L_{Ceq} 65dB$, based on the worst-case scenario use of the venue (e.g. late night event finish, maximum proposed sound levels).

The City may consider accepting a previous Noise Management Plan for a repeat event, in the same location by the same event organiser, with no significant changes to the staging arrangements, nature of the event or the surrounding affected terrain, including newly demolished or constructed buildings.

3

Submit your application for a Regulation 18 along with the Noise Management Plan at least 60 days prior to the event. The submission timeframe starts on the date of a full application being received. A \$1,000 application fee is applicable.

Background

The Noise Regulations set allowable noise levels aimed to protect the long-term health, welfare and amenity of community. The Noise Regulations also acknowledge the community benefits of some inherently noisy activities.

Regulation 18s under Noise Regulations:

- provide an approval process for sporting, cultural and entertainment events, such as an outdoor ticketed music festival or concerts, that would lose their character or usefulness if required to comply with the prescribed standard under the Noise Regulations.
- are subject to a range of conditions and limitations to manage the noise impacts on the surrounding community, as far as reasonably practicable, while preserving the character and viability of the event.

Private events, such as Christmas functions, weddings and invite only events, must comply with the Noise Regulations.

What if I submit a late application?

Applications submitted less than 60 days prior to an event are not encouraged by the City and will incur an additional application fee of \$250. Under the Noise Regulations, this fee cannot be waived. The City encourages applications to be submitted early to ensure a greater chance of timely approval.

The City will only accept applications submitted less than 21 days prior to an event in exceptional and compelling circumstances.

Regulation 18 Application Criteria

Maximum Receiver Noise Levels

All Regulation 18s must comply with a maximum noise level of 75dB* at noise sensitive receivers. The City reserves the right to vary this limit when it is determined to be appropriate for the circumstances of the event.

Maximum Mixing Desk Levels

The City will issue Regulation 18 approvals with the level set at the mixing desk required to achieve 75dB* at the nearest noise sensitive receiver, as determined by the noise modelling accompanying the Regulation 18 application.

Maximum Event Noise Level, Duration and Finish Times

Subject to compliance with other public event statutory requirements, the City will approve applications that adhere to all the criteria (noise levels, event duration and finishing times) detailed in Table 1.

Event durations

Local governments have the ability to establish guidance on Regulation 18 durations. This aims to balance protecting local communities while sustaining the culture and vibrancy of a capital City.

The feedback from the 2025 survey indicated that the majority of respondents supported a range of event durations which may be single day, consecutive days, consecutive weekends and longer event programs. Most Regulation 18 applications received within the City of Perth relate to single-day events, however some events run for a much longer duration.

Variations to Table 1

The City reserves the right to approve or refuse applications that vary from the levels, durations and finish times detailed in Table 1.

Applications proposing to vary from Table 1 must clearly outline variations, why it is necessary and how neighbourhood impacts will be offset to balance the amenity of the noise sensitive receivers. To manage the impact of longer event programs; event organiser must be aware that the City has a preference for mixed genre performances, with 'doof-doof' from drum and bass/techno/hip-hop music not being the core entertainment style and that the events must comply with the noise levels as specified in Table 1 of this Guideline.



Table 1: Event Noise, Event Duration and Finish times

Max Days	Max Level ⁽¹⁾ dB(A)	Max Duration (hrs)	Latest Finish ⁽²⁾
Friday, Saturday & Preceding Public Holidays			
1	75	6	12.30am
1	75	7	12.00am
1	75	8	11.30pm
1	72 ⁽³⁾	9	11.30pm
1	72 ⁽³⁾	10	11.00pm
2	75	6	12.00am
2	75	7	11.30pm
2	72 ⁽³⁾	8	11.30pm
2	72 ⁽³⁾	9	11.00pm
3-4	72	6	11.30pm
3-4	72	7	11.00pm
3-4	69	8	11.00pm
>4	72	5	11.00pm
>4	72	6	10.30pm
>4	69	7	10.30pm

Sunday to Thursday

1	75	5	11.00pm
1	75	6	10.30pm
1	75	7	10.00pm
1	72	8	10.00pm
1	72	9	9.30pm
2	75	5	10.30pm
2	75	6	10.00pm
2	72	7	10.00pm
2	72	8	9.30pm
3-4	72	5	10.00pm
3-4	72	6	9.30pm
3-4	69	7	9.30pm
>4	69	4	10.00pm
>4	69	5	9.30pm
>4	66	6	9.30pm

(1) refers to a maximum noise level dB (LAeq 5 min or LAeq 1 min) at the nearest noise sensitive receiver

(2) New Years Eve events are exempt from latest finish times in Table 1

(3) For 1-2 day events, if Table 1 restricts the maximum noise volumes to 72dB(A)*, Officers may consider volume trade-offs to enable headline acts to play at noise impact levels of 75dB(A)* by requiring corresponding volume decreases in earlier stages of the event.

What details must I include in the Regulation 18 Noise Management Plan?

The City requires that Noise Management Plans associated with Regulation 18 applications contain the following information and demonstrate compliance with Appendices 2, 3 and 4:

- i. Event Dates.
- ii. Start and Finish Times and time and duration of all noise sources.
- iii. All noise sources associated directly with the event that are likely to exceed the assigned levels (e.g. music from performances, crowd noise during, generators amusement rides).
- iv. Sound check and rehearsal details (for events with stage shows and/or music).
- v. Performance schedule (applicable for music concerts with multiple performances).
- vi. Bump-in and bump-out schedule.
- vii. A-weighted and C-weighted sound levels: 20m front and centre of the stage or equivalent) specifying a Leq1min or Leq5min measurement parameter. For a site with delay speakers there may need to be two monitoring points.
- viii. If delay speakers are to be used, the impact must be included within the contour maps.
- ix. Noise modelling including:
 - Meteorological conditions based on a temperature of 22°C, relative humidity of 50% and wind strength of 4m/s during the day and 3m/s at night in all directions.
 - Contour maps and data in A-weighted and C-weighted that extend out to at least 50 dB(A) and 65 dB(C) respectively.
 - Contour maps are to cater for wind from all directions (worst case scenario).
 - If a site is surrounded by multistorey buildings, provide noise contour maps at ground level and at 20m above ground level and include a 3D view of the models' input into the modelling.
 - Modelling needs to include noise generated from other equipment (e.g. generators and amusement rides).
 - Locations of all noise sources expected during the event and temporary barriers.

- Contour maps must clearly show noise contours in relation to mixing desk/reference locations, identifiable landmarks, and must clearly show the expected noise levels at nearest noise sensitive receivers. This will require noise contours to overlay legible, high definition, aerial imagery.
 - Note: for large events, in order to legibly show identifiable landmarks in relation to noise contours, it may be necessary to present multiple noise contour maps at more than one scale.
- x. Detailed site plan showing stage and speaker locations and orientation and all other sources of sound emissions.
 - xi. Noise mitigation measures to be implemented.
 - xii. Complaint handling and response strategy for the event, including sound system tests, rehearsals.
 - xiii. Draft notification letter advising nearby noise sensitive premises (within the 65dB(A) contour) of the event. The letter must include a contact phone number for the organiser, which must be answered by a person prior to and during the event (automated answering services are not acceptable for this purpose).

Contour Maps and Data

Contour maps provide useful visual information from which appropriate noise management measures can be determined. Examples of A-weighted and C-weighted contour maps at ground level and 20m above ground, and a 3D model of the surrounding environment used for noise modelling are provided in Appendix 4.

Noise impact on adjacent local government areas

The City of Perth will refer Regulation 18 applications to adjacent local government authorities where noise contours show impact on their noise sensitive receivers. The City of Perth must receive a letter of 'No Objection' from the CEO of each impacted adjacent local government before approving a Regulation 18.

In addition, please be aware that each local government may provide a notification list and where this occurs it will be a condition of approval to correctly notify prior to the event. Therefore, it is highly recommended that applications be lodged earlier than 60 days before an event to maximise the chance of timely approval across impacted local government agencies.



What details should be included in a Compliance Report?

The Regulation 18 approval will outline what details and information are required from a compliance report. Typically, the following information is expected:

- i. Statement of Approval Conditions
- ii. Monitoring methodology
- iii. Meteorological report and discussion on acoustic impact
- iv. Log of measurements obtained in chart and list form of the full results of the monitoring
- v. Statement and list of the number of exceedances during the event in line with the 'Conditions of Approval'
- vi. List and details of noise complaints
- vii. Discussion on identified non-compliance and how non-compliance is managed
- viii. Conclusion on overall compliance

Penalties applicable to non-compliance with a Regulation 18

The City applies a graduated approach to enforcement, taking into consideration the seriousness of an offence, the history of the event organiser (previous non-compliance and the degree of wilfulness associated with the breach).

It is important to note that failing to comply with the conditions of a Regulation 18 approval (other than ancillary conditions) will result in the Regulation 18 approval ceasing to have effect, which means that any noise emitted contrary to the Assigned Levels is then in breach of the Noise Regulations.

1. Non-compliance with the conditions in a Regulation 18 approval may result in any of the following enforcement actions:
2. A direction by an Authorised Officer to reduce sound levels.
3. Infringement notices (\$250 to \$500 each).
4. Noise Abatement Direction. Failure to comply with the Noise Abatement Direction can result in a penalty of up to \$25,000.
5. Prosecution which may incur a maximum penalty of \$5,000 per offence.
6. Future applications under Regulation 18 may be refused or have reduced sound levels imposed.



What happens if I hold a noisy event without a Regulation 18?

Two things can happen:

- 1 You can be fined under:
 - a. The City of Perth Trading in Public Places Local Law and the City of Perth Local Government Property Local Law for failing to comply with the condition of your event permit (penalty range = \$400 to \$5000), and/or
 - b. The Environmental Protection Act 1986 and Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 for creating 'unreasonable noise' (penalties \$250 up to \$25,000).
- 2 Your insurance may become invalid.

Appendix 1

Venues where more than two Regulation 18s may be held per 12-month period

The City cannot approve more than two Regulation 18s, in or at, a particular venue in any period of 12 consecutive months, unless the CEO is satisfied that ‘the majority of occupiers’ on whom the noise emissions will impact have no objection to the holding of the additional events.

The City of Perth conducted a community noise survey in March 2025 of our residents and ratepayers living and owning property within the City. The City has undertaken a review of its Regulation 18 management process considering the community noise survey results, together with other sources of information including number of Regulation 18 approvals and practical application of the current noise guidelines along with noise complaints from Regulation 18 events to confirm the maximum number of Regulation 18s per 12-month period at our city venues.

Maximum number of Regulation 18s per 12-month period

Six Regulation 18 events:



Langley Park



Supreme Court Gardens



Ozone Reserve



Russell Square

*Four Regulation 18 events:



Wellington Square

Two Regulation 18 events:



Elizabeth Quay



All other private venues

* Wellington Square will increase to 6 Regulation 18 events for 2026 due to Supreme Court Garden renovations. Consideration for the increase to be extended may be considered at the end of the 2026 one-year trial period for future years until the next community consultation.

Appendix 2

REGULATION 18 – APPLICANT CHECKLIST

This checklist will help ensure that you don't miss important steps of the application process which could delay or jeopardise your event.

Pre-application Requirements

1. I have received written confirmation from the City that a Regulation 18 event can be held at the required venue on the required date.

2. My event has been assessed to satisfy the following criteria within Table 2:

Friday, Saturday, Preceding Public Holiday	Sunday to Thursday
Number of days:	Number of days:
Maximum level:	Maximum level:
Duration:	Duration:
Finish time:	Finish time:

3. I have reached agreement between my performers, audio engineers, and acoustic consultant on the event we want to deliver.

4. I have obtained Noise Modelling and a Noise Management Plan for my event that was prepared by a qualified acoustic consultant and checked that it meets the requirements of the City's Regulation 18 Guideline.

Application Submission

6. I have addressed the City's Regulation 18 Guideline requirements in my application.

7. I have submitted my Regulation 18 application to the City along with payment of the relevant fees:

\$1,000 application fee (if >60 days from the event date)

\$1,000 application fee + 250 late fee (if between 21-60 days from the event date)

8. I received an acknowledgment email from the City that the application has been received.

Acknowledgment

- I understand that it can take up to 8 weeks for the City to determine my application.
- If noise from my event will impact on an adjacent local government authority and that local government authority objects, I understand that the City may not be able to approve the application.
- I understand that my application will not be accepted unless the application fee has been paid in full, and all of the required supporting information has been submitted.
- I will not receive a refund should my application be rejected.
- Should my application be successful, I acknowledge that I will receive an approval that is subject to conditions.
- I understand my obligations to comply with the conditions of approval and that the City may take enforcement action against me for failure to comply with these requirements.

Appendix 2 (continued)

REGULATION 18 – APPLICANT CHECKLIST

Post-application Requirements

Receipt of Regulation 18 Approval

9. I have read each condition of the approval document carefully
10. I have appointed an acoustic consultant to conduct the monitoring and reporting without delay.
11. I have provided a copy of the approval document to the acoustic consultant.
12. I have requested the acoustic consultant to accept responsibility for overseeing compliance with the monitoring and reporting requirements.
13. I have advised the acoustic consultant to seek clarification of any conditions directly with the City.
14. I have undertaken community notification as required by the City and as specified in the Regulation 18 Approval.

Reporting

15. I have ensured that sound level monitoring compliance reports are submitted to the City on time as detailed in the conditions of approval.

Appendix 3

REGULATION 18 – APPLICATION

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997

I, being the person responsible for the conduct of the event described in this application, hereby apply under Regulation 18 of the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 for approval as an approved sporting, cultural and entertainment event.

Event Details

Event Name:

Location:

Date/s:

Duration/s:

Appointed Person for Regulation 18 Approval

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Alternative number:

Applicant

Signed:

Date:

Name:

Role:

Organisation:

ABN/ACN:

Phone:

Email:

Alternative number:

Enclosed

- Noise Management Plan
- Site Plan
- List of Performances, Rehearsals, Soundchecks, Bump-In and Bump-out times
- Community Notification Letter
- Application fee - \$1,000

Appendix 4

EXAMPLE OF SOUND CONTOUR MAPS



Provided courtesy of Lloyd George Acoustics

Predicted LAeq, 5 min Noise Levels

100 dB(A) at Front of House Mixing Desk 35m from stage



Provided courtesy of Lloyd George Acoustics

Predicted LCEq, 5 min Sound Levels

110 dB(C) at FOH Mixing Desk 35m from stage



Provided courtesy of Lloyd George Acoustics

Predicted LAeq, 5 min Sound Levels 20m above ground

110 dB(C) at FOH Mixing Desk 35m from stage



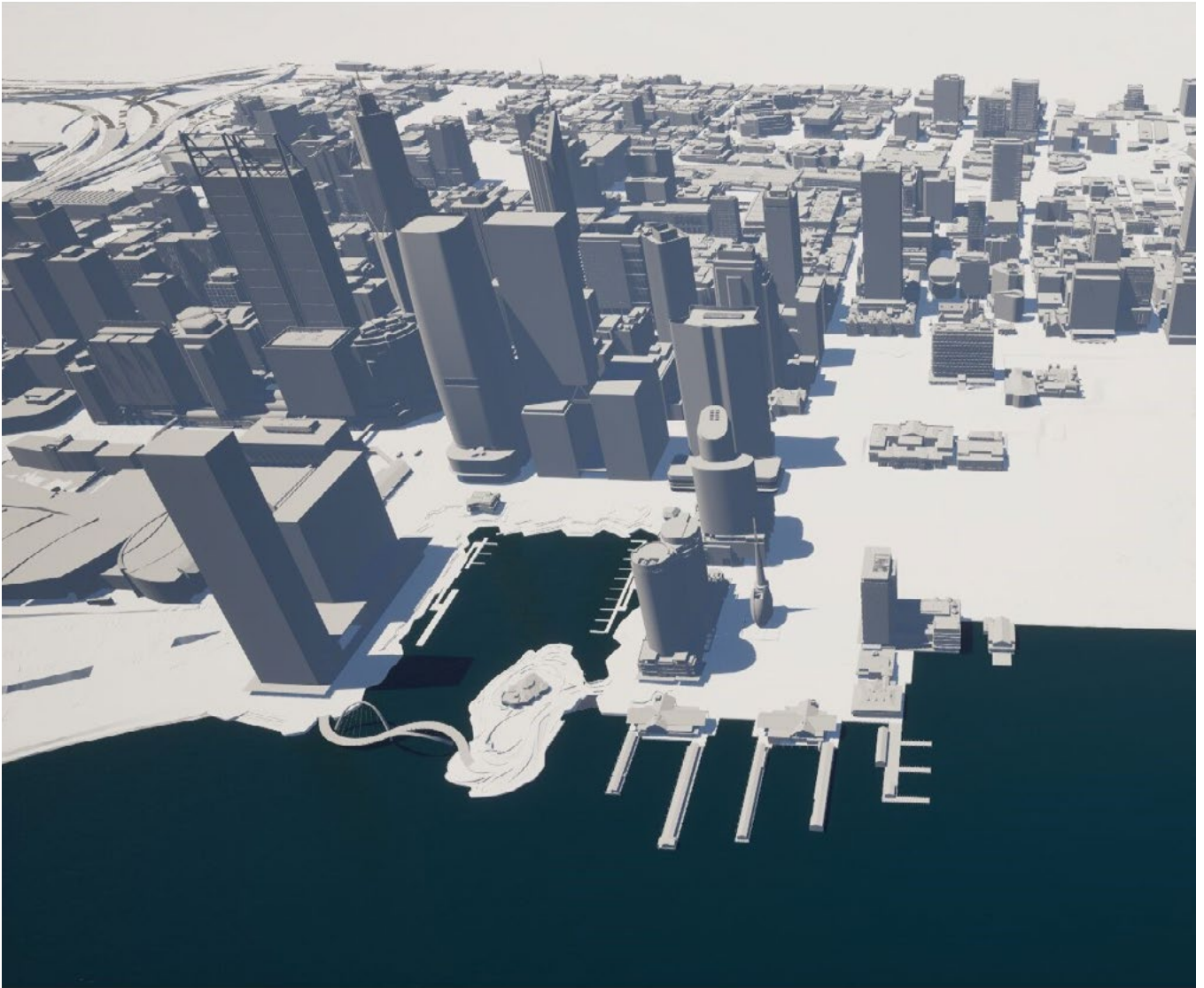
Provided courtesy of Lloyd George Acoustics

Predicted LAeq, 5 min Sound Levels 20m above ground

110 dB(C) at FOH Mixing Desk 35m from stage

Appendix 4 (continued)

EXAMPLE IMAGE OF 3D MODEL



City of Perth 3D City Model

Image of 3D model of the built environment around Supreme Court reserve

Glossary of Technical Sound Terminology

Decibel (dB)

A decibel (dB) is a unit of logarithmic scale used in the measurement of sound pressure and sound power.

Sound Power Level (L_w)

Sound power level is a calculated level of sound energy emitted by a sound source. Sound power cannot be measured using a sound level meter but is calculated on measured sound pressure levels at known distances. Noise modelling incorporates source sound power levels as part of input data. Sound power level is expressed in watts (W).

Sound Pressure Level (L_p)

Sound pressure level is measured at a distance from a sound source and is influenced by environmental factors between a source and a receiver such as meteorological conditions, topography, absorption, and distance. Sound pressure is measured in decibels (dB).

A-Weighting

An 'A'-weighted sound level has undergone an arithmetic frequency modification from a mechanical sound measurement to better represent the way in which the human ear perceives sound. The modification effects lower and higher sound pressure frequencies that the average person cannot hear, or do not hear as much. An A-weighted sound level is described as L_A, dB.

C-Weighting

A 'C'-weighted sound level has undergone an arithmetic frequency modification from a mechanical sound measurement to better represent lower-frequency emissions. A C-weighted sound level is described as L_C, dB.

Equivalent (eq)

An equivalent (eq) measurement of sound levels refers to an average of received sound over time.

Slow (S)

A 'slow' measurement uses a 1-second time constant for equivalent sound level readings, smoothing out fluctuations and providing stable average levels. Measurements referred to throughout this documents are measured as an L_(A/C) Slow value.

L_{(A/C)eq}, 1 min & L_{(A/C)eq}, 5 min

Average sound pressure level values, measured as a L Slow value, taken over 1 minute or 5 minutes, respectively, whose level contains the same energy as the fluctuating noise during that period.

Noise Sensitive Premises

Land-uses or development occupied or designed for occupation or use for residential purposes (including dwellings, residential buildings or short-stay accommodation), caravan park, camping ground, educational establishment, child care premises, hospital, nursing home, corrective institution or place of worship.

This publication can be requested in alternative formats: audio, braille, Word or accessible PDF.



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