



**CITY OF  
PERTH**  
*City of Light*

REGULATION 16  
**'Community Noise'**  
GUIDELINES







## 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 community not-for-profit event organisers and details the circumstances under which the community noise provisions of Regulation 16 in the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997* (Noise Regulations) will be applied.

## Definitions

**‘Noise Regulations’** means Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 (WA)

**‘Exempt’** means doesn’t need to comply with the ‘Assigned Levels’

**‘Assigned levels’** means noise levels for day-to-day activities referred to in Regulation 7 of the Noise Regulations

**‘Noise Management Plan’** is a document detailing how noise emission impacts will be managed before, during, and following an event.

## Background

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

Regulation 16 and Schedule 2 of the Noise Regulations provide that noise from the following community events is exempt but should not be unreasonable for its duration.

- Agricultural shows
- Fairs and fetes
- Educational activities
- Exhibitions and other like events

The City aims to make decisions that are aligned with the City’s Strategic Community Plan and Noise legislation. Decisions are made to benefit the broad community rather than benefit a few.

## What is Community Noise?

In line with the City's Strategic Community Plan and the Noise Regulations, community events may have the following key features:

- Not for profit
- The number of people to benefit from the event outweighs the number impacted
- Free and open to all age groups
- Accessible
- Benefits a positive cause (e.g. fundraising and awareness for cancer research)
- Promotes/exhibits culture and/or rituals - through food, cultural dance, music or other demonstrations (e.g. smoking ceremonies)

The City's officer will assess and consider your event style on its own individual merit.

## Community Noise Criteria

Event organisers need to take appropriate precautions to minimise 'unreasonable noise' from their event.

The following criteria will be taken into consideration when determining if the City supports your event:

- Speaker location- are stages and speakers set up facing away from noise sensitive properties?
- Music duration- is amplified music played for a maximum of 6 hours on a single day or 4 hours over multi-day events?

- Is loud impulsive, tonal or modulating noise emitted for an accumulative duration of under 2 hours?
- Sound levels- Is the maximum sound levels at or below 90dB(A) or 105dB(C) 20m front of house at each stage or cumulative across multiple stage set ups?
- Finish times- does the event finish prior to 10pm for Sunday - Thursdays. or 11pm Fridays, Saturdays, and public holidays
- Noise limit of 60dB(A) at nearest noise sensitive receiver
- Has the event been run before with no noise complaints being received regarding amplified music and/or PA system use.
- Are there any other non-music related noise sources associated with the event that may exceed 100dB(A) measured at 1m?

Welcome to Country ceremonies, speeches, stage presentation, public and safety announcements are expected traditions as part of community events.

## How to Apply for a Community Noise Notification

Event organisers will need to submit the following documents at least 60 days prior to the event as part of their event documentation with the City of Perth:

- Completed 'Community Noise Notification Form' (see Appendix 1), and
- A Noise Management Plan (see Appendix 2).





## Noise Management Plan

The Noise Management Plan (NMP) will need to detail the following information:

1. Plan showing stage set up and direction (facing away from noise sensitive receivers).
2. Speaker type, number and location.
3. Sound level limits in dB(A) and dB(C) at 20m front of house/stage (or equivalent for line array speakers).
4. Sound level measurements taken every 30 minutes at no closer than 3m from the nearest resident.
5. Scheduling of acts at each stage.
6. Name of person responsible for sound control on the event day/s.
7. Identification of surrounding properties that may be impacted by the event.
8. A draft notification letter for approval by the City (you will be sent to impacted residents, but should not be issued until approved by the City).

There may be other information requested from the City in relation to noise management on a case-by-case basis.

Monitoring by the event organiser at the site boundary will be expected during the event to ensure that bass beat, volume and lyrics are not clearly audible at the nearest noise sensitive receiver, and this will usually be part of your conditional event approval.

## Regulation 16 Noise Control Notice

There may be occasions, on assessment of your event, where the City may issue you a Noise Control Notice (NCN) for the event.

The NCN makes the Regulation 16 exemption conditional. Failure to meet the conditions of a NCN can void the exemption provided by the Noise Regulations and expose you to enforcement, including infringements or prosecution for the emission of 'unreasonable noise'.

See Appendix 3 for an example of a NCN. This will help you understand the City's expectations should this be necessary for your event.

You will not need to appoint an Acoustic Consultant for event monitoring, but will be expected to undertake 5-minute sound level measurements every 30 minutes at 20m from the stage and approximately 3m from the nearest noise-sensitive premises.

## Compliance Report

A compliance report will be required from The Noise Control Notice issued to your event will outline what details and information are required from a compliance report.

The report should include information on your sound measurements during the community event and noise complaints made to you.

A compliance report checklist is available in Appendix 2.

# Appendix 1

## REGULATION 16 – COMMUNITY EVENT NOTIFICATION FORM

This form is to be submitted to the City of Perth at least 60 days prior to the event.  
Please provide all of the following information (incomplete applications will not be accepted):

1. Event name:
2. Event Location:
3. Event date/s:
4. Event Times:

5. Tick all the following options that apply to your event:

Agricultural show

Fair or fete

Educational activity

Exhibition or like event

Not for profit (evidence of NPO)

The number of people to benefit from the event outweighs the number impacted

Free and open to all age groups

Accessible (disabled access toilets, ramps, etc)

Benefits a positive cause (e.g fundraising and awareness for cancer research)

Promotes/exhibits culture and/or rituals - through food, cultural dance, music or other demonstrations (e.g smoking ceremonies)

6. Provide a list of performances and set times (e.g. singers, bands, dances etc)

List attached

Not applicable for my event

7. Site map that includes stage set-up and location of speakers and details of speakers.

Attached

8. Noise Management Plan

Attached

Once a letter is submitted to the City, the event officer looking after your event will be in contact to notify you of the outcome. For further clarification around events and noise exemptions please contact the City on [info@cityofperth.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@cityofperth.wa.gov.au) or call the City on (08) 9461 3333.

# Appendix 2

## NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND COMPLIANCE REPORT CHECKLISTS

### Noise Management Plan

#### Event Contact

*name and contact details of the event organiser*

Date

Name

Role

Organisation

ABN/ACN

Phone

Email

Alternative number

#### Appointed Person for Community Noise Management

*name and contact details of the person responsible for  
controlling noise during the event*

Name

Phone

Email

Alternative number

Event Description

*brief overview of the event, attendance, target audience*

Site Plan

*outline of equipment/structures locations associated  
with sounds*

Nature of Sound and Sound Measurements

*sound levels at 20 m from stage, measurement  
device, location of the nearest resident, music genre,  
instruments, amplified, acoustic*

Noise Minimisation

*steps that will be taken to minimise the impact of noise on  
surrounding residences*

List and Locations of Stages, Speakers, and Audio  
Systems

*details of all equipment and locations*

Event and Performance Schedule

*bump-in, sound check, speeches, performances,  
bump-out*

Community Notification and Complaint Response

*notification letter, phone hotline, complaint management  
and recording*

### Noise Control Notice Compliance Report

Event Description

*brief overview of the event, attendance, target audience*

Statement of Noise Control Notice conditions

*summary of NCN conditions, sound levels, measuring  
requirements*

Monitoring methodology

*how you ensured compliance with the NCN*

Log of measurements

*table of sound levels, times, and measurement location*

Statement and list of the number of exceedances  
during the event

Discussion on identified non-compliance and how  
non-compliance was managed

List and details of noise complaints

Conclusion on overall compliance

# Appendix 3

## REGULATION 16 - NOISE CONTROL NOTICE (EXAMPLE TEMPLATE)

The Event is classed as a 'Community Activity'. The requirements applicable to the event have been determined by the City of Perth, in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997.

### Starting and finishing times

1. The starting time for music at the Event shall not be earlier than [START TIME] on [DATE/S] and the completion time for music played at the Event shall be no later than [FINISH TIME] on that day.
2. Sound checks shall be held between the hours of [START TIME] and [FINISH TIME] on [DATE] only, for a combined/cumulative time period not exceeding 30 minutes.
3. All noise associated with the set up and dismantling of equipment before and after the event shall occur only between the hours of [START TIME] and [FINISH TIME] on [DATE].

Please note: Anything outside of the above mentioned hours (condition 3) will need to comply with the 'assigned levels' detailed in regulation 7.

### Sound Level Limits

4. The sound level resulting from music associated with the Event, and from sound tests for the Event, shall not exceed the following levels when measured from the listed location;

Time Period	Sound Level Limits 20m from Stage
[DATE]	$L_{Aeq,5\ min}$ 90dB (A)
	$L_{Ceq,5\ min}$ 105dB (C)

Time Period	Sound Level Limits 3m from Noise Sensitive Premises
[DATE]	$L_{Aeq,5\ min}$ 60dB (A)

The  $L_{Aeq,5\ min}$  and  $L_{Ceq,5\ min}$  are average values taken over 5 minutes, whose level contains the same energy as the fluctuating noise during that period.

### Monitoring of sound levels

5. The Appointed Person, [NAME OF APPOINTED PERSON] is to monitor sound levels using an approved sound level meter every 30 minutes, from a location set 20m front of house/stage (see enclosed map for details).

Clause 5 advice:

A minimum of five sound level readings using the  $L_{Aeq,5\ min}$  and  $L_{Ceq,5\ min}$  criteria shall be taken every 30 minutes.

6. Sound level measurements shall also be taken and logged every 30 minutes at a distance no closer than 3 metres from the building known [IF NAMED], located at [NOISE SENSITIVE PROPERTY ADDRESS].

Clause 6 advice:

Five sample measurements shall be taken whilst local traffic is idle for at least 10 seconds per measurement.

### Compliance Records and Reporting

7. Provide a compliance summary of the event to the City of Perth within 10 working days following the event.

Clause 7 advice:

The compliance summary shall:

- a) include a copy of all sound level records;
- b) provide names, contact numbers and outcomes relating to all noise complaints received during the event; and
- c) in the event of sound level compliance having not been met, provide reasons as to why this occurred.

### Direction to reduce sound level

8. Any direction by an Authorised Person appointed under section 88 of the Act and employed by the City of Perth to reduce sound levels, shall be complied with forthwith.

### Complaint Response Service

9. A complaint response service for persons aggrieved by activities associated with the Event shall be provided. This shall comprise a telephone service that is always answered in person by an operator. An answering machine response is not acceptable. The complaint response service shall be attended at all times when the Event is in progress, including any associated sound checks and rehearsals for the Event.

### Community Notification

10. Written notice of the start and completion times of the Event and any associated sound checks/rehearsals, and the establishment of the complaint response service, its telephone number(s) and the times of operation, shall be provided in a letter of notification to all receivers located at [NOISE SENSITIVE PROPERTY ADDRESS/ES].



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



GPO Box C120,  
Perth WA 6839



[perth.wa.gov.au](http://perth.wa.gov.au)



27 St Georges Terrace  
Perth WA 6000

**T** 08 9461 3333

**E** [info@cityofperth.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@cityofperth.wa.gov.au)



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