

Noise Guide for Local Government: Summary of consultation feedback January 2023

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has considered the feedback received in public consultation and published a revised *Noise Guide for Local Government*.

How did we engage with stakeholders?

The EPA consulted with local government in preparing the draft *Noise Guide for Local Government* (NGLG) and held a public consultation on the draft between 2 August and 27 September 2021.

We heard from stakeholders from across NSW, including government, industry, acoustic practitioners and the community.

We considered the feedback and where possible we have made changes to the final guide to clarify some issues.

What did we hear?

Our stakeholders gave us feedback on a wide range of topics, with some positive comments generally about the structure and the depth of information contained in the guide.

We also received some helpful suggestions for edits or corrections to information within the guide.

The feedback had four main themes:

1. **More detail is needed on how to manage specific noise issues.** The content of the NGLG was largely informed by initial consultation with local government. Councils are independent consent and regulatory authorities with autonomous decision-making powers. The role of the NGLG is to enable local government to make informed decisions rather than stipulating a particular course of

action. The unique circumstances in each local government area can thus be included in the decision-making processes.

2. **More detail is needed on powers and actions.** Complementary information on powers is contained in EPA's *Powers and Notices Guideline*, which is designed to help regulatory authorities, authorised officers and enforcement officers understand and use their powers under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*. Specific circumstances may require councils to seek legal advice. The NGLG is intended to provide general information.
3. **More information is needed on co-regulation and responsibilities for responding to after-hours noise matters.** Engagement and cooperation between local councils and co-regulators such as the police should be addressed at the local level. Actions may be case-specific and will depend on local circumstances and priorities and the resourcing of each body.
4. **Additional guidance is needed on the role of strategic land-use planning to proactively manage noise.** The NGLG includes revised information on the role of strategic and statutory land-use planning in reducing noise-related issues and land-use conflicts. The NGLG includes land-use planning advice that may be considered by councils when developing planning instruments or practices, and when determining planning proposals.

The updated NGLG can be found on the [EPA website](https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au).

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EPA 2022P4222

January 2023

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