

Motor vehicle noise

Private residential premises

[The Northern Territory Noise Management Framework Guideline](#)¹ (the guideline) outlines what you can and can't do when it comes to motor vehicle noise. It also provides advice on how the community can make a complaint about a particular noise problem.

A member of the public can report a noisy vehicle causing unnecessary noise during the night or early morning to the Northern Territory Police (NT Police), who are the primary noise regulator in this matter.

The NT Police can issue a direction to stop or abate the noise under section 53B of the Summary Offences Act 1923.

The NT Police can also take action for vehicles left idling for a time or at a volume that could be considered unnecessary.

Vehicle alarms, vehicle refrigeration units and vehicle sound systems

The NT Police have primary noise regulatory responsibility where there is excessive noise from a motor vehicle at a public place or on a public street from the above noise sources.

The NT Police can stop, inspect and test the vehicles and may direct a person having control of the vehicle to reduce or stop the noise under section 29AU of the NT Traffic Act 1987.

Noise from burnouts should be reported to the Police directly under the Northern Territory anti hoon legislation (Part VA of the Traffic Act 1987² and the Traffic Regulations 1999³).

General road traffic noise on highways and main roads

Reports about road traffic noise, including trucks using engine brakes, should be directed to the Northern Territory Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics who have the primary noise regulatory responsibility in this matter.

General road traffic noise on local roads

Your local council, is the body responsible for traffic management on local roads.

Further information

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

Website: <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-environment/noise>

Email: pollution@nt.gov.au

Pollution hotline: 1800 064 567

General queries: 08 8924 4218 and ask for the noise regulation section.

¹ https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/566356/noise_management_framework_guideline.pdf

² <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/TRAFFIC-ACT-1987>

³ <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/TRAFFIC-REGULATIONS-1999>