

Fact Sheet

Audible bird scaring devices

Bird damage to orchards and vineyards can substantially affect the profitability of primary production. Audible bird scaring devices are sometimes used to limit crop damage. However, the use of such devices becomes inappropriate when they impact the quality of life of nearby residents, create a fire risk or are overused and become ineffective.

Referring to the following guidelines together with understanding potential impacts on any adjoining land may help protect amenity for the surrounding community, protect against fires and preserve the effectiveness of the devices.

Noise control

The operation of audible bird scaring devices should comply with any conditions attached to a development approval as well as the "Audible Bird Scaring Devices Environmental Noise Guidelines 2007" (the guidelines) prepared by the Environment Protection Authority.

Guidelines for noise control include:

- Audible bird scaring devices, whether gas-fired or electronic, must not be used from 8:00pm any night until 7:00am the following morning unless the maximum noise level, when measured at any nearby noise sensitive premises, is less than 45dB(A).
- An audible bird scaring device should, where possible, be directed away from the nearest noise sensitive receiver to minimise the impact of any noise.
- An audible bird scaring device should only be used in conjunction with other methods of bird control. Primary producers should have a written bird management plan that outlines the various methods of bird control being implemented on the property. Consideration should also be given to what bird deterrence measures are being undertaken on neighbouring properties.

In addition, for gas powered devices:

- There should not be more than 6 shots per hour from the property.
- Bird scaring devices should not be used within 300 metres of a dwelling on an adjoining property in a rural area, or within 500 metres of a dwelling on an adjoining property in a residential or rural living zone.
- The space immediately around and above the device is cleared of all flammable material to a distance of at least 4 metres;
- The device is constructed to prevent the escape of fire or burning material, and is clean and in good working order, so as to avoid a malfunction that could cause a fire;



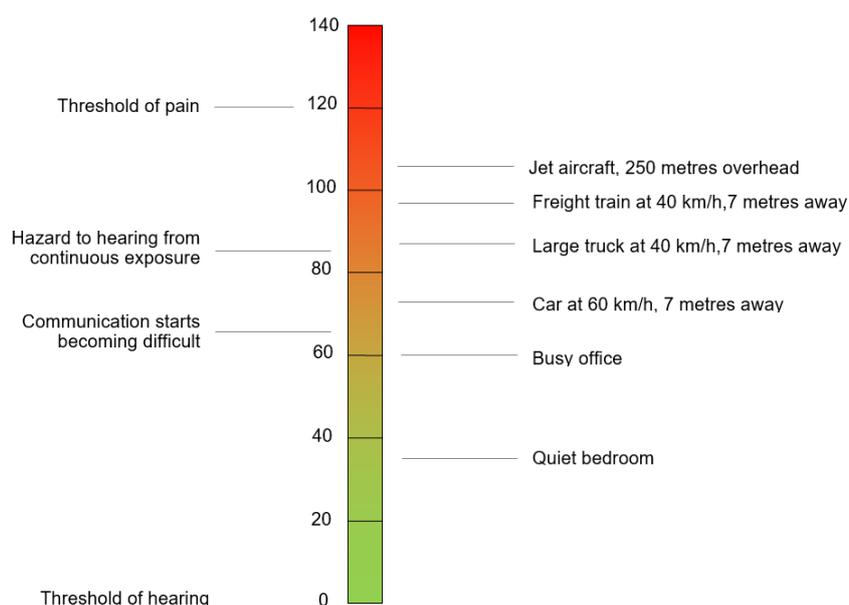
The person using the bird scarer takes all reasonable precautions to ensure the bird scarer cannot fall over or be knocked over or otherwise interfered with by animals.

In addition, for electronic devices;

Shall not operate unless the noise level, when measured at the nearest noise sensitive receiver, is less than:

- 52dB(A) In a primary production zone, or;
- 47db(A) when measured at a noise sensitive receiver in an adjoining residential or rural living zone.

As a guide, some examples of typical sound levels are provided below;



Operating audible bird scaring devices outside of the guidelines may constitute a nuisance under the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016.

Further information

Further information about the guidelines for the operation of audible bird scaring devices is available by phoning The Barossa Council's General Inspector on 8563 8444 or from the EPA website at www.epa.sa.gov.au