

Motorbikes and Quad Bikes (Noise and Dust)

The use of motorbikes and quad bikes on private property is a common pastime on the larger lots that can be found within the Shire.

However, the noise from motorbikes and quad bikes can have an adverse effect on neighbours and their use may not always be appropriate or needs to be done in a manner that minimises the impact.

The appropriateness and what conditions may need to be adhered to is largely dependent on the size of the property the riding is taking place on.

Noise Regulations

The WA Noise Regulations classify unlicensed motorbikes and ORV's as 'specified equipment'. Specified equipment is defined as, 'equipment that requires the constant presence of an operator for its use'. This also includes equipment such as lawn mowers, chain saws, grinders etc. Specified equipment may be used on residential premises for up to two hours per day, between the hours of 7am and 7pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 7pm on Sundays/public holidays.

Riding on properties under 2 hectares

Riding of motorbikes and quad bikes is generally not seen as an acceptable land use.

Noise from any motorbikes or quad bikes must comply with assigned levels of the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997. It is likely that compliance can't be achieved.

Riding on properties 2-5 hectares

Generally considered to be an acceptable land use and is not required to comply with the table of assigned levels, however the following conditions apply:

- The motorised bike must have an unmodified factory fitted muffler(s) and be in a standard state of tune
- Motocross jumps not be used
- The bike must not be unreasonably revved
- The bike must not be purposely ridden up and down a boundary
- Only bikes permanently retained at the property can be used
- No racing
- Riding is to take place between 7am-7pm Mon-Sat and 9am-7pm Sundays and public holidays
- Riding is to be for no more than two hours on any one day (intended to be as a singular time period rather than cumulative during the day)



Riding on properties 5+ hectares

Unrestricted use where the table of assigned levels are met, generally met due to greater distances from nearest dwelling. Where the assigned levels cannot be met, the conditions for lots sized 2-5 hectares would apply.

Dust

Dust nuisances due to the riding of motorbikes and quad bikes can be a significant concern.

During the wetter months there is enough ground moisture to prevent dust lift. However, during the drier months, the soils can be very prone to dust creation. It is extremely unlikely that during the summer months that enough water could be applied to riding areas to be able to effectively control dust.

If the dust cannot be adequately controlled, then the riding of motorbikes and quads may have to stop until such time as enough rain falls to prevent dust creation.

What can you do?

If the noise is affecting you

- Talk to your neighbour concerning the disturbance
- Keep a diary of when the noise occurs
(The Shire can apply the noise regulations to control unreasonable noise, but only if the Shire has sufficient evidence that the motor bike/ORV is being repeatedly operated before 7.00am and/or after 7.00pm, or for longer than two hours per day.)
- Contact the Shire's Environmental Health team by calling 9526 1111
- If the bike is being ridden in a public space (reserves, bridle paths, ovals), please contact the Shire's Community Safety team. If the bike is being ridden on the roads, please contact the Police.

If you wish to ride your bike

- Keep to the start and finishing times outlined in this brochure.
- Speak to your neighbours.
- Ensure the combined operation time of the motorbike does not exceed 2 hours since the beginning of any day.
- Use the bike at a time that minimizes disturbance to those around you.

For further information, please contact Health Services on 9526 1111 or by email info@sjshire.wa.gov.au.

