



Fact sheet: barking dogs for the concerned neighbour

If your neighbour's dog is barking excessively this may be causing you and your neighbourhood unwelcome stress. Burke Shire Council encourages you to approach your neighbour to clearly and politely talk about your concerns about the pet. However, if you are uncomfortable in approaching your neighbour, Council provides a letter template which you may wish to use.

If the dog's barking continues to disrupt daily activities and cause noise nuisance in the neighbourhood, Council is authorised under the Local Law to get involved and assist in resolving the issue.

Please be patient as Council is attempting to work with your neighbour to resolve the nuisance. The actions being taken to minimise the barking will take time to implement. Understanding why your neighbour's dog barks can help you if you approach your neighbour to discuss the problem.

What causes dogs to bark excessively?

- **Boredom** - Dogs that are left alone all day with nothing to do may bark out of boredom
- **Separation anxiety** - Dogs are pack animals and it's normal for them to become anxious when left alone
- **Fear** - Dogs can also bark due to fear. They may be afraid of people coming near their territory or fearful of noises, particularly at night which may cause anxieties. For example dogs can be fearful of fireworks, thunderstorms and lawnmowers
- **Territorial behavior** - It is natural for dogs to want to warn their owner about potential intruders. The dog may not be able to distinguish between welcomed visitors and intruders
- **Communication** - Dogs can bark as a means of communication. They may bark when calling out to other dogs or when responding to other barking dogs, or when communicating with its human pack members. Any noise, no matter how slight can cause a barking response. For example, rustling leaves, a banging window or a knock at the front door.

If the dog's owner is unapproachable and does not agree that a problem exists, you should contact Council on 4745 5100 to lodge a formal complaint and collect a **Noise Nuisance Diary**.

The Noise Nuisance Diary will need to be kept for 5 consecutive days and then submitted to Council. Council will then evaluate the complaint and send an **Abatement Notice** to the owner of the dog if appropriate.

The **Abatement Notice** will require action to be taken within **14 days**. Continued failure to manage the nuisance barking will result in **Impoundment, Fines** and other appropriate measures.