Overview

The generation of noise is often an inherent part of the operation and function of the diverse range of activities located within the district. On industrial sites, in town centres and rural areas, noise is integral to the operation of businesses and agriculture. While everyday living activities such as mowing lawns generate noise, the expectation is that noise levels in residential settings, particularly at night, are low. This is because noise has the potential to cause annoyance and affect peoples' health as a result of sleep disturbance. The noise provisions in this chapter provide limits that recognise the type of activities that are anticipated in each zone. The noise provisions also recognise that some activities have specific noise characteristics that require measurement and assessment. An example of these activities is construction noise, audible bird scaring devices and frost fans.

Section 16 of the Act requires that noise is kept to a reasonable level by adopting the best practicable option. The duty applies to everyone. This chapter sets out the rules for managing noise. Generally, if noise exceeds the standards set by these rules or it does not comply with noise conditions established through a resource consent process, it is considered to be unreasonable noise and the best practicable option available must be taken to reduce it. Under the Act, Waitomo District Council has a range of powers to manage noise including education and negotiation for voluntary compliance, service of an excessive noise direction, infringement notices, abatement notices or enforcement order procedures.

This plan manages noise at both source and receptor. An example of noise controlled at source is noise being emitted from a factory as measured at the site boundary. An example of noise controlled at receptor is the use of noise insulation rules which require acoustic design of noise sensitive activities to reduce the level of noise heard by occupants.

This plan does not control operational noise of aircraft (including helicopters) using Te Kūiti Aerodrome. At the time of writing this plan, the aerodrome was not operating at levels which necessitated noise controls. However, it is expected that should this change, noise levels will be monitored and appropriate mitigation provided to maintain the amenity of existing, lawfully established noise sensitive activities in the vicinity. Additionally, the noise rules in this plan do not apply to noise from aircraft in flight, vehicles being driven on roads or trains (other than when any of these are being loaded or unloaded).

Please note that the noise rules for wind turbines are located in the <u>energy chapter</u>. The noise rules for temporary diesel generators are contained in the <u>energy chapter</u> (where their use is associated with an energy activity) and in the <u>network utilities chapter</u> (where their use is associated with a network utility). Noise rules for new roads and altered roads that are within the scope of NZS 6806:2010, substations, energy storage batteries and compressors associated with gas transmission pipelines are also contained in the <u>network utilities chapter</u>. In all other circumstances, the provisions of this chapter apply.

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Objectives

Refer also to the relevant objectives in Part 2 District - Wide Matters and Part 3 - Area Specific Matters

- **NOISE-01.** Enable activities to generate noise that is compatible with the role, function and predominant character of each zone.
- **NOISE-02.** Ensure that activities do not generate noise levels which adversely affect amenity values, the health and wellbeing of people and communities.
- **NOISE-03.** New noise sensitive activities are designed and/or located to minimise conflict and reverse sensitivity effects.

Policies

Refer also to the relevant policies in Part 2 District - Wide Matters and Part 3 - Area Specific Matters

- **NOISE-P1.** Ensure any noise effects generated by an activity, or a combination of activities, are of a type, scale and level that supports the character and amenity outcomes anticipated in the relevant zone:
 - 1. The residential, rural lifestyle, Māori purpose and settlement zones are predominantly living environments where a low level of noise is anticipated, and people's peace and comfort is maintained.
 - 2. The general rural and future urban zones are working and living environments. Noise from rural activities is an accepted part of these environments, including higher noise levels at night or in the morning during different times of the year.
 - 3. The open space and natural open space zones experience moderate levels of noise at different times of the day and infrequently at night time, depending on whether the space is used for playgrounds or active sports. At times there may also be noise from festivals, markets and other temporary activities.
 - 4. The tourism zone has a mix of living and working activities. Residents expect a reasonable level of night time amenity, while visitors are there to experience a full range of tourism activities. A balance of low to moderate levels of noise at night is anticipated for this zone.
 - 5. The commercial zone is a business environment. A noise environment which accommodates restaurants and bars is required in this zone. However, consideration of the mixed use nature of some parts of this zone is necessary.
 - 6. The industrial and rural production zones are a higher noise environment. Management of noise at site boundaries is particularly important to ensure that the potential for cumulative effects outside of these zones are addressed.
- **NOISE-P2.** Reduce the potential for reverse sensitivity effects by employing land use controls that manage the design and/or location of new noise sensitive activities in proximity to areas that consistently experience higher noise levels.
- **NOISE P3.** Manage noise at source while recognising that some activities are important for economic and social wellbeing and may exceed the specified noise levels

on a temporary and/or irregular basis. However, there remains a duty for such activities to avoid unreasonable noise.

Rules

The rules that apply to noise are contained in the tables listed below. To undertake any activity, it must comply with all the rules listed in:

- NOISE Table 1 Activities Rules; and
- NOISE Table 2 Performance Standards; and
- Any relevant provision in Part 2 District-Wide Matters; and
- Any relevant provision in Part 3 Area Specific Matters.

Where an activity breaches more than one rule, the most restrictive status shall apply to the activity.

<u>Refer to Part 1 - How the Plan Works</u> for an explanation of how to use this plan, including activity status abbreviations.

NOISE - Table 1 - Activities Rules

Unless specifically stated otherwise, the rules in this table apply to all zones, precincts, all roads, new roads approved by resource consent and activities on the surface of water					
NOISE-R1.	Emission of noise (not otherwise p	provided for in this table)			
·	us: PER performance standards in NOISE - e complied with.	 Activity status where compliance is not achieved: RDIS Matters over which discretion is restricted: (a) The matters of discretion associated with any performance standard which cannot be complied with in NOISE - Table 2. 			
NOISE-R2.	Emission of noise from temporary	military training activities			
Activity Status: PER Where: 1. The noise generated complies with NOISE-R14.		 Activity status where compliance is not achieved: RDIS Matters over which discretion is restricted: (a) The extent and effect of any non-compliance with any rule and any matters of discretion in the rule. 			

NOI SE-R3.	Emission of noise from a temporary event			
Activity Statu Where: 1. The noise	us: PER	 Activity status where compliance is not achieved: RDIS Matters over which discretion is restricted: (a) The extent and effect of any non-compliance with any rule and any matters of discretion in the rule. 		
NOISE-R4.	Emission of noise from audible bire	d scaring devices		
and 2. The activit rural produ 3. This rule d devices us purposes l	us: PER generated complies with NOISE-R16; y is undertaken in the general rural or uction zones; and loes not apply to audible bird scaring ed for public health protection ocated on Waitomo District Council rastructure.	 Activity status where compliance is not achieved: RDIS Matters over which discretion is restricted: (a) The extent and effect of any non-compliance with any rule and any matters of discretion in the rule. 		
Activity Status: DIS Where: 4. The activity is undertaken in zones other than the general rural or rural production zones. NOISE-R5. Emission of noise from frost fans		Activity status where compliance is not achieved: N/A		
and 2. The activit	generated complies with NOISE-R17; y is undertaken in the general rural or uction zones.	Activity status where compliance is not achieved: RDIS Matters over which discretion is restricted: (a) The extent and effect of any non-compliance with any rule and any matters of discretion in		
Activity Status: DIS Where: 3. The activity is undertaken in zones other than the general rural or rural production zones.		the rule. Activity status where compliance is not achieved: N/A		
NOISE-R6.	Emission of noise and vibration fro	om construction activities		
Activity Status: PER Where: 1. The noise and vibration generated complies with NOISE-R18.		Activity status where compliance is not achieved: DIS		

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NOISE-R7.	Emission of noise and vibration from blasting		
Activity Status: PER		Activity status where compliance is not	
Where:		achieved: DIS	()
1. The noise	and vibration generated complies with		
NOISE-R19	9; and		
2. The activit	y is undertaken in the general rural		
and rural p	production zones; and		
3. This rule d	oes not apply to building demolition.		

NOISE-R8.

Emission of noise from helipads, farm helipads and helicopter landing areas

Activity Status: RDIS

Where:

- There are 10 or more flight movements per month per site (a landing and take-off counts as 2 movements). For less than 10 flight movements per month the zone rules in NOISE - Table 2 apply; and
- 2. This activity may only be undertaken in the general rural, rural production and tourism zones; and
- 3. Noise at all times must not exceed 50 dB Ldn at any point within any residential, rural lifestyle, Māori purpose or settlement zones, or, at or within the notional boundary of any noise sensitive activity; and
- 4. Sound from any helicopter landing area must be assessed, managed and controlled in accordance with NZ 6807:1994 Noise Management and Land Use Planning for Helicopter Landing Areas.

Where the activity is restricted discretionary, the matters over which discretion is restricted are:

- (a) The characteristics of the noise being generated including its frequency, intensity and any special noise characteristics; and
- (b) The time of the day or night the landing area/helipad will be used; and
- (c) Potential for cumulative effects considering the background noise environment and any special noise characteristics from existing sources; and
- Proximity of actual and anticipated noise sensitive activities to the proposed or existing landing area/helipad and effects on these activities; and
- (e) Effects on people and communities' health and wellbeing, including the potential for sleep disturbance; and
- (f) Any mitigation of the noise proposed, in accordance with a best practicable option approach, including site layout, design and location of structures or equipment and the timing of operations; and
- (g) The degree to which adverse effects can be mitigated through conditions of consent such as noise attenuation; and
- (h) Whether the proposal is in accordance with non-statutory guidelines such as Helicopter Association International Fly Neighbourly Guide 1993 and the operation is AIRCARE accredited; and
- (i) The economic benefits, including providing opportunities for employment that will be derived from the activity.

Activity status where compliance is not achieved: DIS

NOISE - Table 2 - Performance Standards

NOISE- R9. Noise standards for the residential, rural lifestyle, settlement and Māori purpose zones

 Within the residential, rural lifestyle, settlement and Māori purpose zones, noise generated by an activity must not exceed the following noise limits at the legal boundary of the receiving site or the nearest practical measuring point to that boundary:

Time	Noise limit
7am - 7pm	50 dBA(LAeq)
7pm - 10pm	45 dBA(LAeq)
10pm – 7am	40 dBA(LAeq)
10pm-7am	70 dBA(LAmax)

Matters of discretion if compliance is not achieved:

- (a) The characteristics of the noise being generated including its frequency, intensity and any special noise characteristics; and
- (b) The degree to which the noise will be compatible with existing and anticipated activities; and
- (c) The potential for cumulative effects considering the background noise environment and any special noise characteristics from existing sources; and
- (d) Effects on people and communities' health and wellbeing, including the potential for sleep disturbance; and
- (e) Any mitigation of the noise proposed, in accordance with a best practicable option approach including site layout, design and location of structures and equipment and the timing of operations; and
- (f) The degree to which adverse effects can be mitigated through conditions of consent such as noise attenuation.

Noise standards for the general rural and future urban zones

 Noise generated by an activity in the general rural and future urban zones must not exceed the following noise limits at any point within any residential zone, or, at or within the notional boundary of any noise sensitive activity in the general rural, future urban, tourism, rural lifestyle, settlement or Māori purpose zones:

Time	Noise limit
7am - 7pm	50 dBA(LAeq)
7pm - 10pm	45 dBA(LAeq)
10pm – 7am	40 dBA(LAeq)
10pm-7am	70 dBA(LAmax)
AND	

Matters of discretion if compliance is not achieved:

- (a) The characteristics of the noise being generated including its frequency, intensity, and any special noise characteristics; and
- (b) The degree to which the noise will be compatible with existing and anticipated activities; and
- (c) The potential for cumulative effects considering the background noise environment and any special noise characteristics from existing sources; and
- (d) Effects on people and communities' health and wellbeing, including the potential for sleep disturbance; and
- (e) Any mitigation of the noise proposed, in accordance with a best practicable option

2. In the event there are no existing noise sensitive activities on an adjoining site, but such activities could be constructed as a permitted activity under this plan, the noise levels will be assessed or, at or within a line 20 m parallel to the legal boundary of the site where the noise source originates from.

approach including site layout, design and location of structures and equipment and the timing of operations; and

(f) The degree to which adverse effects can be mitigated through conditions of consent such as noise attenuation.

NOISE- R11.

Noise standards for the open space and natural open space zones

 Noise generated by an activity in the open space and natural open space zones must not exceed the following noise limits at any point within any residential zone, or, at or within the notional boundary of any noise sensitive activity in the general rural, tourism, rural lifestyle, settlement, future urban or Māori purpose zones:

Time	Noise limit
7am - 7pm	50 dBA(LAeq)
7pm - 10pm	45 dBA(LAeq)
10pm – 7am	40 dBA(LAeq)
10pm-7am	70 dBA(LAmax)

Matters of discretion if compliance is not achieved:

- (a) The characteristics of the noise being generated including its frequency, intensity, and any special noise characteristics; and
- (b) The degree to which the noise will be compatible with existing and anticipated activities; and
- (c) The potential for cumulative effects considering the background noise environment and any special noise characteristics from existing sources; and
- (d) Effects on people and communities' health and wellbeing, including the potential for sleep disturbance; and
- (e) Any mitigation of the noise proposed, in accordance with a best practicable option approach including site layout, design and location of structures and equipment and the timing of operations; and
- (f) The degree to which adverse effects can be mitigated through conditions of consent such as noise attenuation; and
- (g) The community and social benefits from the activity.

NOISE- R12.

Noise standards for the industrial and rural production zones

 Within the rural production and industrial zones, noise generated by an activity must not exceed the following noise limits at the legal boundary of the site or the nearest practical measuring point to that boundary:

Time	Noise limit
7am - 7pm	75 dBA(LAeq)
7pm - 10pm	65 dBA(LAeq)

Matters of discretion if compliance is not achieved:

- (a) The characteristics of the noise being generated including its frequency, intensity, and any special noise characteristics; and
- (b) The degree to which the noise will be compatible with existing and anticipated activities; and
- (c) The potential for cumulative effects considering the background noise environment and any

10pm – 7am	60 dBA(LAeq)
10pm-7am	90 dBA(LAmax)

AND

2. Noise generated by an activity in the rural production and industrial zones must not exceed the following noise limits at any point within any residential zone, or, at or within the notional boundary of any noise sensitive activity in the general rural, tourism, rural lifestyle, settlement, future urban, natural open space, open space or Māori purpose zones:

Time	Noise limit
7am - 7pm	55 dBA(LAeq)
7pm - 10pm	50 dBA(LAeq)
10pm – 7am	45 dBA(LAeq)
10pm-7am	75 dBA(LAmax)

special noise characteristics from existing sources; and

- (d) Effects on people and communities' health and wellbeing, including the potential for sleep disturbance; and
- (e) Any mitigation of the noise proposed, in accordance with a best practicable option approach including site layout, design and location of structures and equipment and the timing of operations; and
- (f) The degree to which adverse effects can be mitigated through conditions of consent such as noise attenuation; and
- (g) Ambient noise levels and any special character of noise from any existing activities, the nature and character of any changes to the sound received at any receiving site and the degree to which such sounds are compatible with the surrounding activities; and
- (h) The economic benefits, including providing opportunities for employment that will be derived from the activity.

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Noise	standards	for t	the	commercial	and	tourism zo	nes
10100	staniaaras			oonnin oran	aa	104110111 20	

 Within the commercial and tourism zones, noise generated by an activity must not exceed the following noise limits at the legal boundary of the receiving site or the nearest practical measuring point to that boundary:

Time	Noise limit
7am - 7pm	65 dBA(LAeq)
7pm - 10pm	60 dBA(LAeq)
10pm – 7am	55 dBA(LAeq)
10pm-7am	70 dBA(LAmax)

AND

 Noise generated by an activity in the commercial and tourism zones must not exceed the following noise limits at any point within any residential zone, or, at or within the notional boundary of any noise sensitive activity in the general rural,

Matters of discretion if compliance is not achieved:

- (a) The characteristics of the noise being generated including its frequency, intensity, and any special noise characteristics; and
- (b) The degree to which the noise will be compatible with existing and anticipated activities; and
- (c) The potential for cumulative effects considering the background noise environment and any special noise characteristics from existing sources; and
- (d) Effects on people and communities' health and wellbeing, including the potential for sleep disturbance; and
- (e) Any mitigation of the noise proposed, in accordance with a best practicable option approach including site layout, design and location of structures and equipment and the timing of operations; and

open space, natural open space, rural lifestyle, settlement, future urban or Māori purpose zones:

Time	Noise limit
7am - 7pm	50 dBA(LAeq)
7pm - 10pm	45 dBA(LAeq)
10pm – 7am	40 dBA(LAeq)
10pm-7am	70 dBA(LAmax)

 (f) The degree to which adverse effects can be mitigated through conditions of consent such as noise attenuation; and

(g) Ambient noise levels and any special character of noise from any existing activities, the nature and character of any changes to the sound received at any receiving site and the degree to which such sounds are compatible with the surrounding activities; and

(h) The economic benefits, including providing opportunities for employment that will be derived from the activity.

NOISE-R14.

Emission of noise from temporary military training activities

 Noise generated by the activity must not exceed the following noise limits at any point within any residential zone, or, at or within the notional boundary of any noise sensitive activity in the general rural, rural lifestyle, settlement, future urban or Māori purpose zones:

Time	Noise limit
7am - 7pm	55 dBA(LAeq)
7pm - 10pm	50 dBA(LAeq)
10pm – 7am	45 dBA(LAeq)
10pm-7am	70 dBA(LAmax)

AND

 Noise and vibration resulting from the use of explosives must comply with the provisions of NOISE-R19.2 – R19.6.

Matters of discretion if compliance is not achieved:

- (a) The length of duration of the activity, characteristics of the noise being generated including its frequency, intensity, and any special noise characteristics; and
- (b) The potential for cumulative effects considering the background noise environment and any special noise characteristics from existing sources; and
- (c) Effects on people and communities' health and wellbeing, including the potential for sleep disturbance; and
- (d) Any mitigation of the noise proposed, in accordance with a best practicable option approach including site layout, design and location of structures and equipment and the timing of operations; and
- (e) The degree to which adverse effects can be mitigated through conditions of consent such as noise attenuation; and
- (f) The social benefits that will be derived from the activity.

NOISE-R15.	Emission of noise from a temporary event			
0	ated by the activity must not exceed the bise limits at any point within any	Matters of discretion if compliance is not achieved:		
boundary of general rura	zone, or, at or within the notional any noise sensitive activity in the al, rural lifestyle, settlement, future ori purpose zones:	 (a) The characteristics of the noise being generated including its frequency, intensity, and any special noise characteristics; and 		

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Time7am - 7pm7pm - 10pm10pm - 7am10pm-7amAND2. This rule does not app	Noise limit70 dBA(LAeq)55 dBA(LAeq)40 dBA(LAeq)70 dBA(LAmax)by to public firework displays.	 (e) The degree to which adverse effects can be mitigated through conditions of consent such as noise attenuation; and (f) The social and economic benefits, including
	n of noise from audible bir	
 as follows: (i) Only during day and sunset; and sunset; and (ii) At a frequency of up to three devices or three in rapid succe minute period of (iii) At a maximum ha of crop; AND 2. The noise from any audinot exceed 85 dBA measured at any point or, at or within any noise sensitive ac site or holding. 	ylight hours between sunrise d of not more than six clusters e shots from gas operated e multiple shot from firearms ssion per device in any 60 of the day; and density of one device per 10 dible bird scaring device must unweighted peak level as t within any residential zone, the notional boundary of tivity located on a separate	 achieved: (a) The characteristics of the noise being generated including its frequency, intensity, and any special noise characteristics; and (b) The potential for cumulative effects considerin the background noise environment and any special noise characteristics from existing sources; and (c) Effects on people and communities' health and wellbeing, including the potential for sleep disturbance; and (d) How the operation and management of the device will avoid or minimise potential effects of neighboring properties; and (e) Any mitigation of the noise proposed, in
NOISE-R17 Emissio 1. Noise generated by from	n of noise from frost fans	Matters of discretion if compliance is not

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a separat 2. Frost fans temperati height ab bud or fru 3. Records temperati	of any noise sensitive activity located on e site or holding. Is must only be operated when the local air ure drops to, or below 2°C, recorded at a ove ground relevant to the height of the ait being protected. of annual calibration of the frost fan ure sensors must be kept and made to Waitomo District Council on request.	 (a) The proximity of the frost fan(s) relative to noise sensitive activities and the residential zone; and (b) The proposed height of fans and the type of motor, speed and the number of blades on the fan(s); and (c) The characteristics of the noise being generated including its frequency, intensity, and any special noise characteristics; and (d) The potential for cumulative effects considering the background noise environment and any special noise characteristics from existing sources; and (e) Effects on people and communities' health and wellbeing, including the potential for sleep disturbance; and (f) How the operation (conditions triggering use) and management of the frost fan(s) network will avoid or minimize potential effects on neighboring properties; and (g) Mitigation proposals to address potential noise and vibration effects; and (h) The economic benefits, including providing opportunities for employment that will be derived from the activity. 	NOSE
measured accordan <u>Standard</u> <u>noise</u> ; an 2. The vibra measured accordan <u>Standard</u>	Emission of noise and vibration from the from construction activities must be d, assessed, managed and controlled in the requirements of <u>New Zealand</u> <u>NZS 6803:1999 Acoustics – Construction</u> and the tion from construction activities must be d, assessed, managed and controlled in the requirements of <u>German</u> <u>DIN 4150-3:1999 Structural vibration –</u> <u>Evibration on structures</u> .	Matters of discretion if compliance is not achieved: DIS	
NOISE-R19.	Emission of noise and vibration from	blasting	
rural prod 2. Noise ger not exce (Lzpeak) residentia	ity must only occur in the general rural or duction; and herated by blasting/use of explosives must eed a peak sound pressure of 120dB when measured at any point within any al zone, or, at or within the notional of any noise sensitive activity; and	Matters of discretion if compliance is not achieved: DIS	

- A level of 115 dBA may be exceeded on up to 5% of the total number of blasts over a period of 12 months; and
- Blasting must not occur outside of the hours of 9am
 5pm, Monday to Saturday; and
- Blasting must not occur more than once per day. This requirement does not apply to minor blasts as identified in the Australian and New Zealand Environment Council - Technical basis for guidelines to minimise annoyance due to blasting overpressure and ground vibration, September 1990; and
- 6. Vibration generated by blasting/use of explosives must not exceed the guideline values in Tables 1 and 3 of DIN 4150 inside any building, except in the case of a building located on property under the same ownership or management as that of the party blasting/using explosives.

Advice Notes

Noise measurement

Noise shall be measured in accordance with NZS 6801:2008 "Acoustics - Measurement of environment sound" and assessed in accordance with NZS 6802:2008 Acoustics Environmental noise", unless otherwise specified elsewhere in this plan.

Exemptions

The noise rules do not apply to the noise generated by the following activities:

- 1. Aircraft being operated during flight.
- 2. Helicopters used as an air ambulance or for emergency operations, by the military, CDEM or by search and rescue operations. This includes training for the purposes of undertaking those activities.
- 3. Vehicles being driven on a road (within the meaning of Section 2(1) of the Transport Act 1998) or driven within a site as part of or compatible with a normal residential activity.
- 4. Trains on rail lines (public or private) and crossing bells within road reserve, including at railway yards, railway sidings or stations. However, this exemption does not apply to testing (when stationary), maintenance, loading or unloading of trains.
- 5. In the general rural and rural lifestyle zones, farm animals including farm dogs, and agricultural vehicles (when not being used for recreational purposes).
- 6. In the general rural zone, agricultural machinery or equipment (except for frost fans), including produce packing facilities where the produce packed is grown on site, and forestry planting and forestry harvesting provided that: The machinery and/or equipment is operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and in accordance with accepted management practices (e.g. for milking, spraying, harvesting crops or trees, packing and the like), and the best practicable option

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(including the option for the activity to take place at another time of the day), is adopted to ensure that the emission of noise does not exceed a reasonable level.

- 7. Motor craft operating on the surface of waterbodies.
- 8. Any warning device or siren used by emergency services for emergency purposes (and routine testing and maintenance).
- 9. The siren sounded at 5pm daily in Te Kūiti.
- 10. The use of generators and mobile equipment (including vehicles) for emergency purposes, including testing and maintenance not exceeding 38 hours in duration, where they are operated by emergency services or lifeline utilities.
- 11. Activities at emergency service facilities associated with emergency response and emergency response training.
- 12. Impulsive sounds (such as hammering and bangs) and dog barking noise.
- 13. The control of crowd noise at a park or reserve.