

Noise

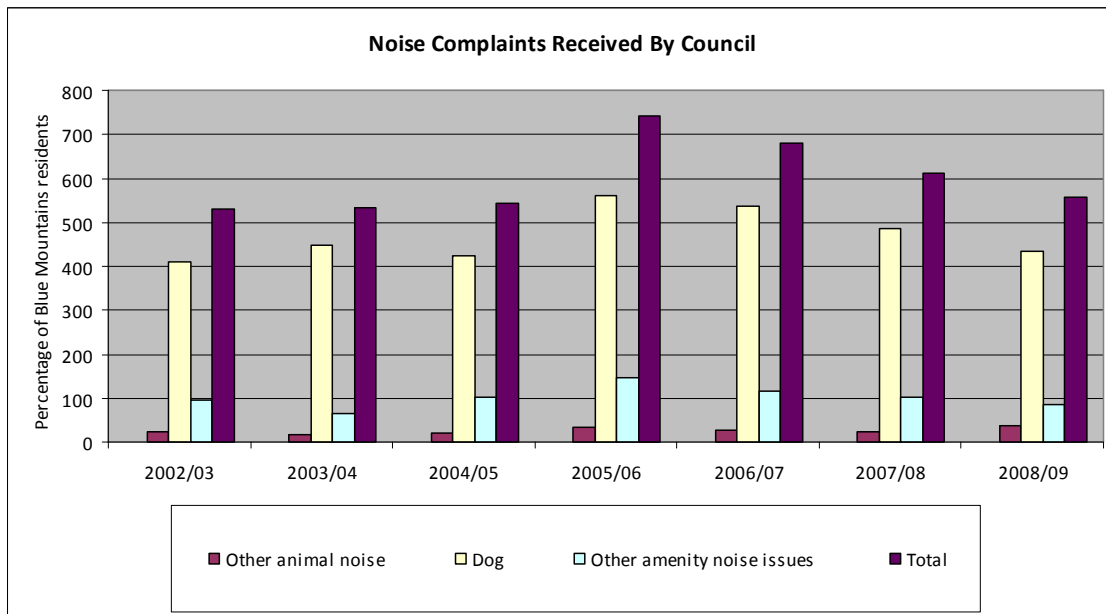
What are we monitoring?

The number and type of domestic noise complaints received by Council

What is the trend?

Noise complaints rose significantly between 2002-2003 and 2005-2006. They peaked in 2005-2006 and have steadily decreased since then. The reasons for noise complaints reaching a peak in 2005-2006 are unclear. They may be influenced by a number of factors including climate factors, legislative changes and traffic noise. The majority of noise complaints received by the Council relate to barking dogs.

Noise abatement issues are generally handled by local councils, the Police, the Department of Environment and Climate Change and /or the specialised authorities such as the Roads and Traffic Authority, Ports Corporation, Waterways Authority and the Airservices Authority.



Year	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Dog	410	448	424	561	536	484	435
Other animal noise	25	18	20	34	26	25	38
Other amenity noise issues	96	66	101	148	117	104	84
Total	531	532	545	743	679	613	557

Why is monitoring this trend important?

Noise can be annoying, interfere with speech, disturb sleep or interfere with work. Prolonged exposure to loud noise can also result in increased heart rate, anxiety, hearing loss and other health effects. The impacts of noise depend both on the noise level and its characteristics and how it is perceived by the person affected. The *Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2008* restricts the times in which domestic activities can be undertaken in a residential setting. Local councils are largely responsible for managing noise issues (in collaboration with the Police) under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

Source: Blue Mountains City Council, 2009