

Public Question Time – answers to questions taken on notice*

Question from Jen Edge

Ms Edge asked what changes and actions are City of Port Phillip staff committed to provide to enable community education, timely and effective enforcement, follow up and if needed prosecution, in relation to the new residential noise regulations, effective 13 October 2018 via the Environmental Protection Amendment Bill 2018?

Response

As the Manager of Council's Safety and Amenity Department, I have been asked to respond to your query. Accordingly, I have followed this up with the relevant areas in Council and provide the following response.

There are only 2 minor changes to the regulations.

The first introduces an exemption to the prohibited hours for the use of air conditioner, evaporative cooler or split systems. These systems can now be used continuously during a health heat alert as declared by the Chief Health Officer of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The second change is a reduction of one hour to the prohibited hours for the use of air conditioner, evaporative cooler or split systems. The prohibited hours are as follows:

- Monday – Friday: before 7am and after 11pm (previously after 10pm)
- Weekends and public holidays: before 9am and after 11pm (previously after 10pm)

Given that the changes to the regulations are minor, Council does not propose to provide any community education program. We will continue to use social media and Council's website to alert the public when a health heat alert has been declared.

All service requests from our community in relation to breaches of the regulations will continue to be investigated as per our existing service with enforcement action taken when required.

I trust this clarifies Council's position in relation to the EPA's Noise Regulations. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 9209 6358. A meeting has been organised with the Mayor, Canal Ward councillors and concerned residents to discuss the trial and answer any of their concerns.

The meeting is set for Tuesday 8 May 2018 @ 1pm.

**Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*