NoiseNet Monitoring

Fraser Coast Regional Council Local Law No.2 (Animal Management) 2011

FACT SHEET

NoiseNet Monitoring Devices are installed by Fraser Coast Regional Council's Community Ranger Team to investigate animal noise complaints. The device monitors noise levels to determine if they meet the definition of an "animal noise nuisance" under Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011. This technology allows for objective data collection to support fair and evidence-based decision-making when addressing animal noise concerns.

How Does NoiseNet Monitoring Work?

1. Installation Process

A Community Ranger will attend your property to install the NoiseNet device at your request.

You will need to sign a NoiseNet Monitoring Device Agreement form each time the device is installed.

2. Data Collection

The device records data 24 hours a day, capturing:

- Noise levels in decibels.
- 4 second audio recordings when a noise of interest is heard (a dog bark).
- Audio spectrograms (visual representation of sound).

This data is securely uploaded to NoiseNet's servers throughout the monitoring period.

3. Noise Analysis

NoiseNet employs a range of techniques to analyse the collected data:

- Identifies the source of the noise, including distinguishing specific animals.
- Measures noise intensity and duration to assess whether it constitutes a nuisance.
- Determines patterns, such as time of day or frequency of noise occurrences.
- Provides daily reports to Fraser Coast Council for assessment.

4. Reporting and Follow-Up

Reports detail the timeframes, duration, and severity of the noise. If the results indicate a nuisance, the Council will use this evidence to address the complaint with the relevant animal owner.

Building better communities together.

Privacy and Security Measures

Noisenet prioritizes the privacy of all parties involved and ensures sensitive information is handled securely by implimenting the following privacy safeguards:

1. Host Consent

Monitoring begins only after your written consent is provided. You are informed of the purpose of monitoring and the use of audio recordings.

2. Data Encryption

All audio recordings are encrypted at the point of saving and can only be accessed via NoiseNet's secure servers.

3. Staff Compliance

NoiseNet staff sign confidentiality agreements and receive regular training in privacy protocols.

4. Automated Analysis

Over 99.9% of audio data is analyzed by automated systems to minimize human involvement and protect privacy.

5. Selective Audio Review

In rare cases, short audio snippets (up to 4 seconds) may be reviewed by NoiseNet staff or shared with authorized Council officers.
Snippets containing human speech are only shared if relevant to the investigation (e.g., human activity directly linked to animal noise).

6. Manual Verification (Rare)

Less than 1% of cases require manual review, such as when the accuracy of automated analysis is questioned or disputes arise about the source of the noise.
Verification involves NoiseNet staff listening to random 4-second audio snippets to confirm findings.

What Happens After Monitoring?

1. Analysis Results

Daily reports are reviewed by the Council to determine if the animal noise constitutes a nuisance.

2. Next Steps

If a nuisance is identified, Council may take action such as contacting the animal owner to resolve the issue. If results are inconclusive, further monitoring or investigations may occur.

3. Complaint Resolution

The goal of monitoring is to provide clear, evidence-based outcomes to resolve complaints fairly.

Frequently Asked Questions?

1. How long does monitoring last?

Monitoring periods vary depending on the nature of the complaint but typically last seven days.

2. Will I hear the device operating?

No, the device operates silently and discreetly.

3. Can the recordings be used for other purposes?

No, recordings are strictly used to investigate the specific animal noise complaint and are securely managed by NoiseNet.

4. What if the complaint involves multiple animals?

NoiseNet's analysis techniques can identify individual noise sources, including specific animals, even in complex environments.

Additional Information

To obtain additional information about NoiseNet devices, please feel free to reach out to the Council using any of the following methods:

- Visit the website: https://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au
- Contact us by phone at 1300 79 49 29.
- Send an email to: enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

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