

Why dogs bark

All dogs bark, but some barking dogs become a real neighbourhood nuisance. Ongoing barking is often a symptom of another problem and taking time to understand what makes dogs bark, is the first step towards solving this problem, both for the dog involved and your neighbours.

- Dogs are social animals and often bark when they are lonely. Separation from an owner can cause dogs to stress
- Barking may also be the result of boredom and frustration
- Barking is a dog's way of seeking attention from its owner
- Dogs bark out of fear. This can be fear of people, objects or other dogs
- Dogs bark when there is a threat to their territory, and
- Some breeds have a reputation for barking.

You can control barking

The most important first step is to work out why your dog is barking. Once you know the symptom, you can find the cure. Barking can be controlled through several small behavioural changes. Some behavioural changes could be as small as walking your dog twice a day to relieve boredom.

Dogs are social animals and require a certain amount of interaction daily. If your dog barks when you are away from your property, it is probably due to loneliness.

An easy way of combating this is to provide your pet with stimulants such as balls and chew toys to keep them occupied while you are away. It can also be handy to leave a radio on and to leave something that belongs to you, such as an old shoe.

If you can let your dog inside the house, provide your dog with a single room where odours relating to you can relax the dog.

Try giving your dog a bone when you leave the house. This will teach your dog that when you leave there is a positive reaction.

A fence that is correctly designed to restrict your dog's vision will help reduce barking. Obedience training and discipline are also very important when trying to stop a barking problem.

A dog can be trained to be alone and to bark only on command.

What is excessive barking?

Council regulates barking under *Local Law and Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011* which prescribes that a person who keeps an animal on premises must:

'take all reasonable steps to prevent the animal from making a noise or disturbance that causes nuisance or disturbance to the occupiers of an adjoining premises or premises in the vicinity of the land on which the animal is ordinarily kept'.

Irresponsible owners who fail to comply with *Local Law and Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011* will face penalties including receipt of a First and Final Notice, Compliance Notice or Penalty Infringement Notice (fine).

What can you do if your neighbour's dog is barking?

Talk to your neighbour as soon as the problem arises. They may not be aware that their dog is barking or that their dog's barking is bothering you.

Give your neighbour this Fact Sheet or use Council's 'Neighbour Notification' found on the other side of this Fact Sheet. If the barking persists after a week or two, speak with your neighbour again to provide feedback.

If your neighbour is unapproachable, or does not agree that a problem exists, you should contact Council for further advice.

The information collected on this form will be used by the Charters Towers Regional Council for the purpose of processing and assessment of your application/request. Your personal details will not be disclosed for a purpose outside of Council protocol, except where required by legislation (including the *Right to Information Act 2009* and *Information Privacy Act 2009*). This information will be stored on Council's database. The information collected will be retained as required by the *Public Records Act 2002*.

Barking Dog



For happy owners, pets and neighbours.

Hello Neighbour

You may not be aware, but the **barking of your dog/s** is causing a disruption to the lifestyle of others around you.

I decided to let you know about this nuisance instead of making a complaint to Charters Towers Regional Council as I am sure that you would like the opportunity to remedy this matter.

Please refer to fact sheet (**see over**) for more information.

Details (e.g. times dog barks (optional))	

Regards
Your Neighbour

(optional)	
Name	
Address	
Phone	

