



THINKING NEIGHBOURHOOD DOGS

Dogs make loyal pets but problems can occur when dogs bark a lot causing a nuisance problem, or if dogs in rural areas attack other animals – particularly farm animals.

BARKING DOGS

Domestic/pet dogs bark for many reasons. Usually dogs bark as an alert when someone is approaching their home. If a dog is barking far more than this so that the dogs barking unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort and convenience of any person in other premises then something needs to be done.

REMEDIES TO SOLVE A BARKING DOG PROBLEM

A lot of the time dogs will bark when they are alone and their owners are either away or at work. In this case many dog owners are simply not aware of the problem as they simply have not been told.

If you are unfortunate enough to be dealing with this issue, the best place to start is a discussion with your neighbour to allow them the opportunity of finding a solution to the problem themselves.

In this case owners might consider a solution that might offer some company to the dog, another location for the dog to be housed during working hours or a citronella type collar that discourages barking

If unsuccessful with this initial approach, someone suffering from the nuisance of a barking dog might consider approaching their local Council. Dog ownership in NSW is largely regulated by the Companion Animals Act 1998 and Companion Animal Regulation 2008.

Local Councils also have remedies pursuant to the Local Government Act 1993 (section 124) and access to other remedies pursuant to the Companion Animals Act 1998; the Companion Animal Regulation 2008 and the Environmental Operations Act 1998 (which deals particularly with noise from barking dogs).

URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL AND BARKING DOGS

When the Uralla Shire Council is advised by a resident of a barking dog problem the first step they take is to locate the owner of the dog and advise them of the problem. If this fails to address the problem the Council will then issue the resident with a Noise Monitor sheet.

Council then will look over this sheet and if the problem is persisting they will then consider a Nuisance order being placed on the dog for up to six months. If the problem is still not resolved the Council can then issue fines to the owner of the barking dog.

Court action may then be sought as an option of last resort if the dog is still barking at nuisance levels.

ARMIDALE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND BARKING DOGS

Armidale Regional Council require you to carefully identify which dog is causing the problem. Once this is established, a written complaint is required and also have a Barking Dog Complaint Form available on their website.

The Council will then contact the owners and allow them a period of time to address the problem. If the matter remains unresolved the Council may then issue an official notice followed by fines and, if necessary, pursue Court action including the issue of a Nuisance Order.

COURT ACTION AND LEGAL REMEDIES Nuisance Orders

If a Council has issued one of these orders the owner of the dog has a short period of time to object. The order tells the owner exactly what they are to do and the order lasts for the period of six months.

A Noise Abatement order

If you do not feel that you are getting the response that you require, or if it all seems to be taking too long, an individual can contact the Police for a Noise Abatement Direction or approach the Court to apply for a Noise Abatement order under the Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997.

Court Orders

If you are unable to resolve an issue involving a persistently barking dog despite previous approaches, a visit to your solicitor may be able to assist you to apply for a Court order. Courts offer various solutions from the seizure and destruction of animals, to training, or specific control measures. Court orders are enforceable and fines of up to \$11,000.00 can be issued if dog owners fail to comply.

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