Noise Management Process Fact Sheet

1. PREAMBLE

1.1 Background

This document has been formulated in response to an increasing need for a comprehensive and strategic approach to managing noise at events, which respects both legislative requirements and the concerns and comfort of local communities.

1.2 Purpose

The core purpose of this document is to establish clear guidelines regarding the management of noise during events, stipulate acceptable noise levels, and provide a systematic process for addressing any noise-related complaints.

1.3 Scope

The procedure is applicable to all event organisers, sound engineers, and all parties involved in the planning and execution of events in Holdfast Bay. This includes events of all types that have the potential to produce noise impacting the surrounding communities.

1.4 Definitions

a) Leq: The equivalent continuous sound level - this is the average noise level over a specified period.
b) Lmax: This is the maximum noise level that was recorded during a given period.
c) Noise Sensitive Receivers: These are locations where noise-sensitive activities are typically conducted (for example, residential homes, hospitals, schools).
d) Noise Management Bond: A financial guarantee paid by event organizers to ensure compliance with their communicated noise management plan - levied at the discretion of the council.
e) Acoustic Engineer: Appointed at the discretion of the council. Has access to an extensive range of equipment that allows them to monitor event noise simultaneously at multiple locations during an event, both on-site and off-site providing independent expert opinion and direction relating to the event organizers compliance with their noise management plan and councils noise management procedure.

2. PROCESS

a.) Noise Levels: The Front of House (FOH) should strictly adhere to the maximum noise levels of 110dB (C) Leq (15 min).

b.) Bass Music Level: The unweighted bass noise level in any of the 31.5, 63 or 125 Hz octaves should not exceed the maximum noise level target by more than 15 dB in the 31.5 Hz band and 10 dB in the 63 and 125 Hz bands.

c.) Noise Level Targets:
Targets are established at two critical monitoring positions – at the discretion of the council:

- **Front of House (FOH):** This position must adhere to the maximum noise level of 110dB (C) Leq over a 15-minute period.
- **Residential Boundary:** Noise Sensitive Receivers, typically at the nearest residential boundary, must not exceed 75dB (A) Leq (averaged over 5 minutes) or 90dB (A) Lmax (for 1 minute). In addition, the unweighted Leq in the 31.5Hz, 63Hz, or 125Hz octave bands should not exceed 80dB.

These dual-point targets ensure that noise is controlled both at the source (FOH) and in areas sensitive to noise, thereby protecting community well-being and ensuring compliance with legislative requirements.

d.) Acoustic Engineer: An acoustic engineer may be required to be engaged by the event owner to ensure compliance with the noise level targets –at the discretion of the council.

e.) Noise monitors may be required to be installed for the duration of the event to log sound pressure levels relative to the Noise level Targets and provide logged levels during and post-show upon request – at the discretion of the council.

f.) Site Plan Approval: Event organisers should seek site plan approval, which should incorporate the proposed noise management measures, including speaker locations, direction of sound propagation, and any planned noise barriers or buffer zones.

g.) Noise Management Plan: Requested at the discretion of the council. Event organisers should have a noise management plan in place that outlines the strategies for managing and monitoring noise, detailing methods and frequency of noise monitoring, strategies for noise reduction if targets are exceeded, contact information for responsible personnel and an event log how which demonstrates how noise related issues will be recorded.

h.) Noise Management Bond: Event organisers may be required to pay a Noise Management Bond as a financial guarantee for compliance with their Noise Management Plan. The bond amount will be set by Council based on event scale, location and expected noise levels. It will be held by Council until post-event compliance is confirmed. Strike system for bond forfeiture

- **First breach (First Strike):**
  If noise levels exceed the approved limit at either FOH or the residential boundary and are not immediately reduced, the Acoustic Engineer will issue a first strike. This is a formal warning only—no bond is forfeited at this stage.
- **Second breach (Second Strike):**
  If noise again exceeds the limit after the first strike, 50 % of the bond will be forfeited.
- **Third breach (Third Strike):**
  Any further exceedance will result in forfeiture of the remaining 50 % (i.e. 100 % of the bond is lost).
- **Immediate forfeiture:**
  If noise levels exceed the approved limit by more than 10 dB(C) on any single occasion, 100 % of the bond will be immediately forfeited.
- **Refund of bond:**
  If no strikes remain against the event—i.e. all noise criteria have been met—the full bond will be returned to the organiser within 14 days of the event's conclusion.

i.) Event Hotline: Requested at the discretion of the council. Establishing an event hotline will provide real-time communication with the community, handled by a dedicated team that can address calls and complaints promptly. This is to be operational during the event and all calls recorded in the Event Log. The Event Log will be made available to the City of Holdfast Bay after the event upon request.

j.) Complaints Procedure: Requested at the discretion of the council. There should be a clear process for handling noise complaints, including immediate remedial actions when noise levels exceed set targets. This should detail steps taken when a complaint is received, who is responsible for taking action, and how the outcome is communicated back to the complainant.

REFERENCES

a) "Environment Protection (Noise) Policy 2007 (SA)" - This policy sets out legislative requirements regarding noise management at events in South Australia. The policy is available at the South Australian Legislation website, https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au

b) Australian and New Zealand Standard, AS/NZS 1055.1:2018 Acoustics - Description and measurement of environmental noise" - This standard outlines methodologies for acoustic measurement and is applicable to event noise management. The standard can be accessed through the SAI Global Infostore, https://infostore.saiglobal.com

CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY

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