



DOC23/433577 – 1

Phil Johnston  
Email: [scribepj@bigpond.com](mailto:scribepj@bigpond.com)

**Electronic mail**

23 May 2023

Dear Phil

**Re: What NSW Govt. regulatory authority requires registered motorcycles to be regularly compliance tested for the muffler exhaust noise limit of 94 decibels?**

Thank you for your email and for your raising your concerns about exceedingly loud exhaust noises on motor cycles on the Old Pacific Highway north of Cowan.

In NSW, there are three main bodies who are involved in the regulation and responsibility for managing motor vehicle noise, including motor cycles. Transport for NSW are the primary agency and are responsible for motor vehicle standards in NSW. The NSW Police Force are responsible for on-road standards and driver behaviour and the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) regulate stationary noise emissions.

The EPA has a robust regulatory program in place to minimise the environmental impacts of non-compliant cars and motorbikes operating on NSW roads. As part of the program the EPA has established the Noise Testing and Anti-Tampering Inspection Scheme. Under the scheme the NSW Police Force, Council Officers and members of the community are encouraged to submit reports of vehicles which they believe to be emitting excessive noise.

Following a report made to the NSW EPA by a member of the community and provided the report contains sufficient details of the vehicle in question, (i.e., make, model, colour, registration number), in the first instance of a report being received, the EPA will issue an advisory letter to the registered owner of the reported vehicle. The advisory letter offers the opportunity to the vehicle owner to have the vehicle's exhaust checked should they wish to.

A second or subsequent report received from a member of the community (21 days after the issue of the advisory letter) may result in the EPA issuing a Vehicle Inspection Notice, which requires the vehicle owner to have the vehicle exhaust noise tested at an EPA Approved Inspection Station. If the vehicle fails the noise inspection, then they must rectify their exhaust and have their vehicle retested. Failure to comply can result in suspension of vehicle registration.

The EPA's role is to regulate stationary exhaust noise limits under environmental legislation, while NSW Police are primarily responsible for the on-road enforcement of motor vehicle standards under road transport legislation and as such, NSW Police officers can issue on the spot defective vehicle notices whenever they inspect a vehicle and believe that the vehicle does not comply with the relevant standards including standards relating to exhaust noise.

Phone 131 555  
Phone 02 9995 5555  
(from outside NSW)

TTY 133 677, then  
ask for 131 155

Locked Bag 5022,  
Parramatta  
NSW 2124 Australia

[Click or tap here to  
enter StreetAddress](#)

[info@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@epa.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)  
ABN 43 692 285 758

The EPA works with community members, council rangers and NSW Police to identify noisy vehicles and a robust compliance program has been developed to effectively support the enforcement of noise limits. As part of the program, EPA officers participate in joint operations targeting noisy and illegally modified vehicles with NSW Police and Transport for NSW officers. These operations are run at the request of NSW Police Local Area Commands as they are primarily responsible for on-road enforcement.

To report noisy vehicles, please go to <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/noise/vehicle-noise/reporting-noisy-vehicle-exhaust>. This webpage will guide you on how to report a noisy vehicle and what information is required. The webpage also outlines what actions will be taken once the vehicle's details are matched with a vehicle registration.

To learn more about the penalties for different vehicle noise offences, and our advice on reducing noise from motor vehicles, please refer to our webpage <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/noise/vehicle-noise>

Yours sincerely



Sherryn Cabardo-Oclarit  
**Unit Head – Regulatory and Compliance Support Unit**  
**Regulatory Operations Regional**