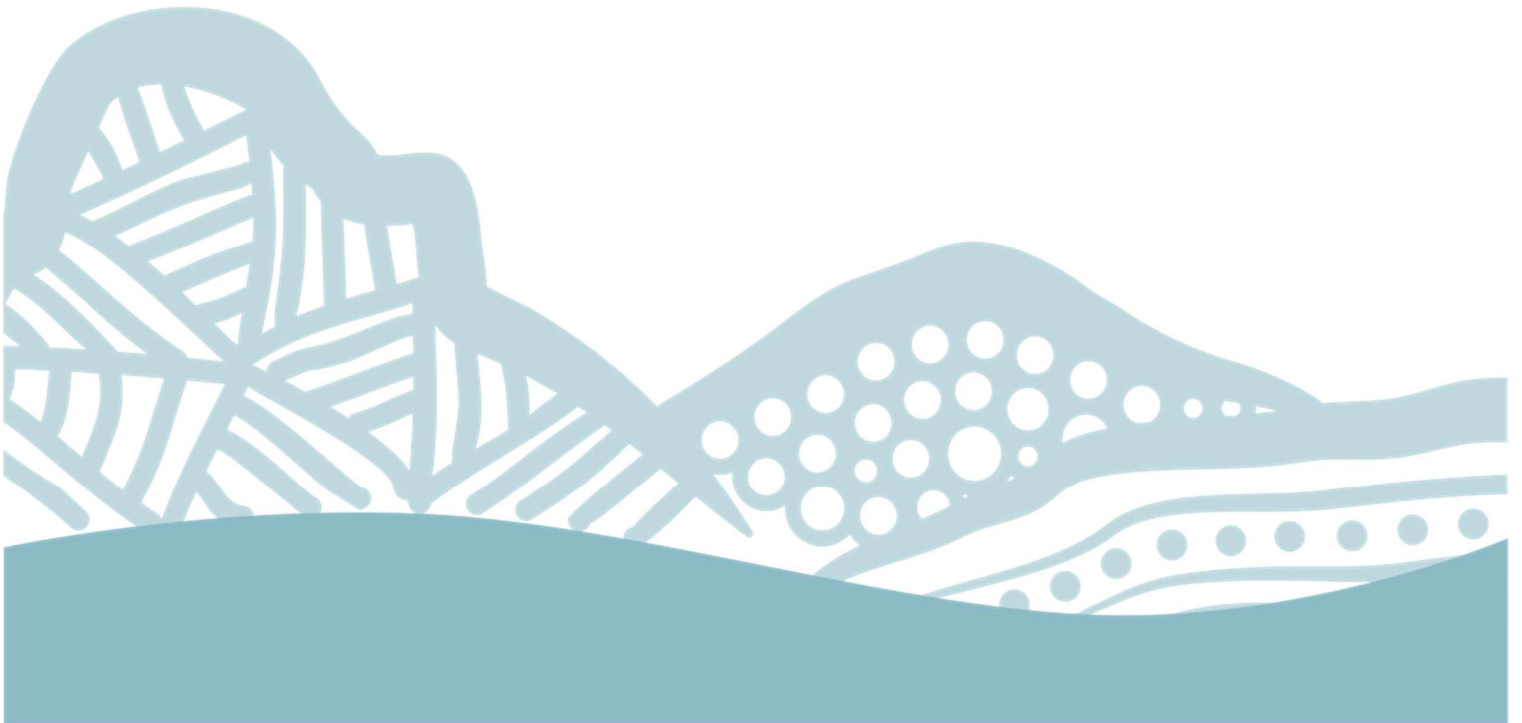




# Barking Dog Diary



## Introduction

A Barking Dog Diary is a recognised tool used by local government to establish whether noise from a dog in your neighbourhood constitutes nuisance under the *Companion Animals Act 1998*. Under the Act, a dog may be considered a nuisance if it makes noise, by barking or otherwise, that persistently occurs, or continues to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of people residing in surrounding premises.

## How do I complete a Barking Dog Diary?

A Barking Dog Diary is a record of barking, howling or other noise from a dog ordinarily kept on a neighbouring property. It requires you to record information about when barking occurs, the frequency and type of barking, potential causes and importantly, how the barking affects you.

In completing a Barking Dog Diary it is extremely important that you keep accurate and detailed records as the diary may be presented as evidence in Court. You must ensure that you complete all fields for every entry recorded in the diary and all entries in the diary must be to the minute. While this may seem excessive, it is necessary if the diary is to be accepted in Court as reliable evidence. Records stating 'barking all day' or '9am – 12pm' are not considered to be sufficiently accurate. If you are not home on a particular day to record barking, please note this in the diary.

Example diary entries on the following page are intended to provide you with guidance on the type of information that needs to be recorded and level of detail required.

## How long do I need to keep a Barking Dog Diary?

You need to keep a Barking Dog Diary for a period of 14 consecutive days. Accurate monitoring over this period is required to establish that barking is sufficiently persistent and ongoing to cause nuisance.

## I have completed a Barking Dog Diary – what do I do now?

Once you have completed a Barking Dog Diary for 14 consecutive days you must complete the declaration on the last page of the diary and a *Barking Dog Complaint Form*. The completed complaint form and diary must be provided to Council within seven days of date of the last entry recorded in your diary. Please send your completed form and diary to:

Manager Development and Regulatory Services  
Planning and Environmental Services Department  
Kyogle Council  
PO Box 11  
Kyogle NSW 2474

## Next steps

On receipt of a complaint form and Barking Dog Diary, Council will undertake an assessment of the information provided to establish whether there is a pattern of excessive barking by the dog ordinarily kept at the subject premise. If Council concludes that there is an issue, Council will contact the property owner to discuss the issue and formally request their cooperation to ensure that they are complying with their obligations under the Companion Animals Act.

If a Barking Dog Diary is incomplete, or the information provided does not demonstrate a pattern of excessive barking, no further action will be taken.

## Example Barking Dog Diary

Date	Time barking started (to the minute)	Time barking stopped (to the minute)	How many barks	What type of barking (Continuous or intermittent)	Reason for barking (e.g. person walking past, another animal, weather,	How the barking affected you
12/05/19	7:05am	7:06am	32	Continuous	Person walking dog past property	Awoken from sleep
12/05/19	7:36am	7:38am	10	Intermittent	Unknown	Unable to hear telephone conversation
12/05/19	8:30am	5:00pm	-	-	-	N/A - At work
12/05/19	5:05pm	5:10pm	50	Continuous	Car pulled up in driveway	Feelings of annoyance
12/05/19	8:15pm	8:18pm	25	Intermittent	Owners leaving property	Unable to hear television
12/05/19	8:42pm	8:44pm	18	Intermittent	Owners absent	Children unable to get to sleep
12/05/19	9:02pm	9:03pm	45	Continuous	Owners absent	Woke children from sleep
12/05/19	9:30pm	9:40pm	100+	Continuous	Owners absent	Unable to concentrate on study/reading
13/05/19	5:45am	5:46am	15	Continuous	Birds chirping in yard	Awoken from sleep
13/05/19	9:30am	9:45am	100+	Continuous	Children in my backyard	Children unable to play in backyard
13/05/19	6:30pm	6:36pm	65	Continuous	Visitors at my property	Unable to entertain family/friends in backyard

## Barking Dog Diary

DOG IDENTIFICATION	
Address of property where the dog is ordinarily kept:	
Description of dog: (e.g Breed, Colour, Size, distinguishing features)	
Name of dog (if known):	

## RECORD OF BARKING

Date	Time barking started (to the minute)	Time barking stopped (to the minute)	How many barks	What type of barking (Continuous (C) or Intermittent (I))	Reason for barking (e.g. person walking past, another animal, weather,	How did the barking affect you

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## Declaration

I, the undersigned, declare that this Barking Dog Diary was kept by me and is a true and accurate record of the dog(s) barking behaviours.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

