

---

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Myaan Bengosi – Service & Strategy Policy Planner  
**FROM:** Deirdre O’Grady – Team Leader Environmental Health  
**DATE:** 3 February 2025  
**RE:** **TRMP Noise Limit changes – Plan Change 81**

---

### **Introduction**

This memorandum presents proposed amendments to the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) regarding noise management provisions. The proposed changes address three key areas:

- 1) Sunday noise limits
- 2) Noise limits in Residential and Rural Zones

This document provides a brief analysis of current issues, proposed solutions, and anticipated benefits of implementation. All recommendations have been developed in accordance with national planning guidelines, New Zealand acoustic standards, and the Resource Management Act framework.

### **Background and Context**

#### **Current Sunday Noise Limit Issues**

The current TRMP applies nighttime noise limits to daytime activities on Sundays, which is inconsistent with the NZS6802:2008 – Acoustics – Environmental Noise, and the National Planning Guidelines.

The current Sunday daytime noise limits of 40 dB LAeq and 70 dB LAmax are very low. An example of this is someone operating a lawn mower on a Sunday would breach the TRMP noise limits.

The use of LAmax limits is intended for sleep protection during nighttime hours and is unsuitable for daytime noise limits.

The current TRMP noise rules cause issues when investigating noise complaints on Sundays and when reviewing resource consents. It is difficult for businesses and residents to operate normally within the current Sunday TRMP noise limits.

## **Residential Zone and Rural Zone TRMP noise limits**

The Mixed Use/Residential Zone boundary noise limits do not have the same Sunday issue as the other Residential and Rural zones. The 55 dB LAeq daytime limit applies from Monday to Sunday.

However, in other Residential and Rural Zones, as written in the TRMP, the nighttime noise rules are applied all day on Sunday. This is likely not the intent of the rule because 40 dB LAeq and 70 dB LAm<sub>ax</sub> are very low for daytime limits. NZS6802:2008 recommends LAm<sub>ax</sub> for sleep protection, not daytime noise limits.

It is likely that the word "Sunday" is missing from the rule, which currently refers to "Saturday until 6pm". This should instead be written as daytime meaning from 7am to 9pm Monday to Sunday inclusive, including public holidays and, nighttime being all other times. This correction would align the rule with New Zealand-wide guidance and the National Planning Standards.

## **Recommended Changes to the TRMP**

### **Changes to 'Sunday Noise Limits'**

Amend the TRMP to specify that the daytime noise limits for Sundays and public holidays should be consistent with national guidance.

The recommended noise limits for Sundays and public holidays should be 55 dB LAeq from 7.00am to 9.00 pm.

The TRMP should state that L<sub>max</sub> limits should only be set for night-time hours, aligning with NZS6802:2008.

The TRMP rule should be amended to be written as daytime meaning from 7am to 9pm Monday to Sunday inclusive, including public holidays and nighttime being all other times. This will align with the National Planning standards.

## **Specific Acoustic Standards**

The proposed changes are based on the following standards:

- NZS 6801:2008 (Measurement of environmental sound)
- NZS 6802:2008 (Environmental noise), which will help improve clarity and enforceability.

## **Benefits of the Plan Change**

- The proposed changes will result in clearer, more efficient, and enforceable provisions.
- These changes will remove uncertainty and ambiguities relating to the measurement and assessment of noise.
- The changes will help ensure the plan is consistent with relevant acoustic standards, best practice and the Resource Management Act.

## **Conclusion**

Amending the TRMP to reflect appropriate Sunday noise limits, correcting Residential and Rural Zone noise limits, are crucial for aligning with national standards and best practice, ensuring practical implementation, and reducing noise-related issues within the Tasman district.

These changes will improve the clarity and enforceability of the noise rules, leading to better outcomes for both residents and businesses.

## **Noise Levels and Terminology**

- L10: The noise level exceeded for 10% of the measurement period.
- Lmax: The maximum noise level measured over a time period.
- LAeq: The equivalent continuous sound level.
- LAeq is the preferred parameter for most noise limits because it is better supported by research and can be used to combine, separate or average sounds from different sources.
- A daytime limit of 55 dB LAeq aligns with the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline values for community noise.
- A noise limit of 40 dBA is recommended for sleep protection and is not suitable for daytime noise limits.