

NOISE ISSUES For Businesses



Supercars are proposing a race around historic Newcastle East. This will affect historic terraces, heritage listed buildings, aged care facilities, community housing, residences, and **your businesses**, which line roughly 50 percent of the proposed racing circuit. Many businesses are within 5 metres of the racing circuit...far closer than any other street circuit in Australia. Workers will find themselves almost on the racing car circuit.

Supercars have stated: “cars are limited to a maximum of 95 dB(A) 30 metres from the vehicle”. This is from just one car. Independent noise modelling confirms actual levels could be up to 109 dB(A) at your house or business premises!

THIS CAN CAUSE HEARING DAMAGE AND IS UNACCEPTABLE!

This noise exposure **exceeds all safe levels** mandated by SafeWork NSW. The Work Health & Safety Act FULLY applies to the event. This will pose significant problems for employers and anyone who works adjacent to the circuit.

Workers in cafes, restaurants, offices and retail outlets in the vicinity of the track will be exposed to unacceptable risk according to SafeWork NSW. So will clients and visitors. Concentration, productivity and communication will suffer. Workers will experience greater stress.

Excessive noise levels are known to contribute to hearing damage, or even hearing loss during multiple exposures. Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) and associated disorders are irreversible. **Noise can produce damage that goes undetected, progresses unnoticed, and finally manifests itself long after the fact.**

Residents and businesses adjacent to the circuit will be exposed to near continuous noise levels in excess of 105dB(A) during racing. These levels may exceed 90 - 95 dB(A) inside workplaces. Requests by medical professionals and residents for an **Environmental Noise Assessment** for the event have been ignored by race organisers.

Residents, business operators, employees and clients in Newcastle East will be living and operating within the Supercars workplace. Despite an obligation to do so, authorities have NOT notified residents and businesses of these exposure levels. They have NOT issued a **noise impact statement** nor enacted their primary duty of care as a *person conducting a business or undertaking* under the WHS Act. This amounts to gross negligence and they are putting *their* profits over public health.

Any work or activity that requires giving and receiving verbal instructions or warnings to ensure safety is an OH&S issue. Authorities continue to IGNORE critical NOISE ISSUES to the detriment of **your** safety and the safety of **your workers**.

Ask yourself: Can you hear or be heard inside your workplace, café, bar, kitchen, office, medical centre or police station with these extreme noise levels? It will be like trying to have a conversation at a rock concert. The answer is no!

THIS IS NOT SAFE FOR YOU OR YOUR COLLEAGUES! YOU HAVE A LEGAL RIGHT TO BE SAFE AT WORK!

What can you do? Talk to SafeWork, talk to Council, talk to your workers, talk to Supercars, talk to your insurer. Take action to relocate this race to a dedicated and safe racing venue ... for your health and safety!

EXPOSURE TIME GUIDELINES

Accepted standards for recommended permissible exposure time for continuous time weighted average noise, according to **NOISH and CDC, 2002**. For every 3 dBAs over 85dBA, the permissible exposure time before possible damage can occur is halved.

Continuous dB	Permissible Exposure Time
85 dB	8 hours
88dB	4 hours
91 dB	2 hours
94 dB	1 hour
97 dB	30 minutes
100 dB	15 minutes
103 dB	7.5 minutes
106 dB	3.75 minutes
109 dB	< 2 minutes

