

**Dear Neighbour,**

I'm writing to advise that we are currently experiencing an ongoing noise disturbance in the neighbourhood due to barking dogs. I believe that your dog may be contributing to this issue.

I have discussed this situation with The Rural City of Wangaratta. They have suggested that as a first step, I should contact you in writing to express my concern, to ensure you are first made aware of the issue and also given the opportunity to rectify the situation.

On the back of this letter is some information from Council, which may be of assistance to you in resolving problematic barking.

Your co-operation at this stage is all that is required to avoid this matter progressing any further and involving the Council.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

**Neighbour**

## **Some simple tips to reduce barking**

- Make sure that you do not reward your dog for barking too much. Don't let the dog inside or give it attention when it barks. Instead, give the dog attention when it is quiet.
- If the dog is barking at people or noises on the other side of a fence, move the dog to another part of the yard, or put up a barrier to keep the dog away from that area.
- If the dog barks at regular disturbances such as children walking to school or rubbish trucks, keep the dog inside or in an enclosed area at these times.
- If the dog races along a path or fence barking at passing distractions, put barriers or obstacles in the dog's way to slow it down.
- Ensure that the dog has adequate exercise and obedience training.
- Make sure that the dog has food, water and shelter from the weather.
- If the dog is barking through gaps and cracks in the fence, fill them in.
- If the dog is barking at people it can see passing by, try blocking the dog's view.
- An anti-barking collar may be useful for some, but not all, barking dogs, contact the local pet store for further information, or speak to your Vet for further information.
- Teach the dog to stop barking on command. When the dog is barking give a firm command such as 'cease' and call the dog to you. Praise the dog when it stops barking. If the dog will not listen to you, it will need obedience training.

**Remember, dogs bark for many reasons. If these simple tips do not help you, please seek further advice.**