



# Gasometer Park Activation: Community Guideline

(Version 3 – June 2024)



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

Gasometer Park, Newstead is owned and managed by Brisbane City Council and this framework has been developed to guide activation in this public space. The activation framework will help Council provide opportunities for residents to enjoy Brisbane's beautiful subtropical climate and connect with family and friends in open spaces that make our city great whilst considering the unique location of Gasometer Park.

Gasometer Park contains Newstead Gasring which is a heritage-listed former gasometer built by Brisbane Municipal Council from 1873-87 as part of Newstead Gasworks. The gasworks was operational until the 1990s when it was closed and left vacant until it was redeveloped into a mixed use residential, commercial and recreational space.

Gasometer Park is defined as a District Recreation - Urban Common area. This means it will provide a variety of functions from quiet respite, informal recreation to carefully planned events. Council plans to allow the park to support temporary activations (such as markets, movies, and light shows) for the benefit of the community, whilst also ensuring the preservation of heritage values and appropriate asset management.

To enable activation and provide operational noise management considerate of the constraints, noise modelling of the area and the desire to provide equitable opportunity to utilise this public park, Council has developed the Gasometer Park Activation Framework. The framework will guide park use proposals and event assessments and approval conditions for events within Gasometer Park.

## **Understanding activation opportunities and constraints at Gasometer Park**

Gasometer Park is situated within a mixed-use (inner city) area within the Newstead and Teneriffe waterfront neighbourhood plan which is defined as an integrated community of residential, shopping, business and employment activities located around parkland.

A community consultation conducted by Council to understand the local community's expectation and concerns about park activation received majority support for events to continue in the gasometer with consideration taken for constraints relating to noise, restricted access and car parking congestion.

A noise audit of Gasometer Park and noise monitoring of an event found that the background noise of the park is consistent with a mixed use (inner city) park area surrounded by roads, residential, commercial and light industry. All of these inputs have shaped the following activation framework.

## **Park Use Consent**

The *Public Land and Council Assets Local Law 2014* (PLACA) provides for the management and regulation of activities in parks to promote safe use and enjoyment of parks, optimise the benefits derived from parks, and protect, conserve and manage all park assets.

While most activities in parks will not need the consent of Council, some activities do require a park use consent or are otherwise restricted or prohibited because of their potential to affect the use or operation of the park, park users or adjoining properties.

To learn more about which activities requires consent refer to <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/things-to-see-and-do/council-venues-and-precincts/parks/using-council-parks-for-activities-and-events/park-bookings-and-consents>.

## **Gasometer Park Activation Framework**

This activation framework will guide park use proposals and event assessments and approval conditions for events within Gasometer Park.

The Gasometer Park Activation Framework includes:

1. Operating Times
2. Tiered Activation Framework limits
  - Noise limits
  - Frequency
  - Duration
3. Site and design solutions
4. Additional conditions
5. Suitable event guide

More details about each section are included below

## Operating Times

- No generated noise before 7am and after 10pm (Monday to Saturday), or before 8am or after 6pm on Sunday and public holidays
- No amplified noise exceeding 70dBA before 7am and after 10pm Monday to Saturday, or between 8am and 6pm on Sunday and public holidays.

## Tiered Activation Framework limits

Noise limits for open air events are defined in the Qld Environmental Protection Act 1994. The key measures are the  $L_{Aeq,T}$  Index.

Noise level* at a sensitive receiver		Frequency	Event type	Duration
<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>Occasional Loud</b> 70 dBA or 80 dBC	Monthly/ fortnightly if seasonal	Feature performance Max of 12 annually	up to 4hrs preferred Thursday – Saturday
<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>Semi-Frequent Moderate</b> 65 dBA or 75 dBC	weekly	Market, outdoor cinema	up to 3hrs
<b>Tier 3</b>	<b>Frequent Low Level</b> 60 dBA or 70 dBC	daily	light show, long term installation	up to 30mins total if regular
<b>After Hours Activities</b> (10pm - 7am)		Either, $L_{Aeq,5\text{-minutes}} = \text{Ambient } L_{A90} + 3 \text{ dBA}$ or OLGR noise goals (for a licenced event).		

## Site and design solutions

- Speakers to be:
  - directed north away from residential areas
  - positioned horizontally or angled downwards
  - positioned to minimise noise spillage beyond venue
  - preferentially arranged in sub arrays rather than single point amplification
  - shielded from 70 Longland St buildings where possible (esp. sub-woofers)
- Tier 3 events to not include sub-woofers
- Where necessary, use sound limiting devices and equalisation of low frequency content
- Minimise generator use and patron yelling
- Active management of the amplification using a sound desk on request for some Tier 1 events

## Additional conditions

Events will be required to meet the normal conditions of a Park Use Consent as well as those of the following additional conditions that are relevant to the proposed event:

- Bump in that includes nosier activities to be scheduled during daytime hours (7am – 6pm, 8am Sun)
- All sound checks and rehearsals to fall within the normal operating hours for that tier event
- Modify noise levels to meet patron numbers – if less attend reduce max levels
- Notify the immediate community of up-coming Tier 1 events
- Implement less noisy options for audience participation where possible
- Promote public and active transport options
- No structures to be attached the heritage gasring structure

## Appropriate event types

Due to the unique requirements of this venue and the need to restrict the level of bass to meet the noise constraints of the area not all events are suitable for Gasometer Park. Below is a guide to suitable or unsuitable types of noise generated in events.

Suitable events for Gasometer Park	Estimated Volume (Centre of Gasometer)		Not Suitable for Gasometer	Estimated Volume (Centre of Gasometer)	
	dBA	dBC		dBA	dBC
Community Music	75-80	90	Punk / Heavy Rock bands (drum kits, and/or amplification)	90-100	110
School Choir	75-80	90	Dubstep/Bass DJ music	90-100	115
Piano / Unplugged Guitar	80 - 85	90	Hip-hop, Reggae bands	90 - 95	105
Live Theatre / Play	80 - 85	90	Typical action/blockbuster outdoor cinema	85-90	95-105
Pop/dance music with no sub woofers and minimal low freq content, entertaining an audience within 10m of source.	<b>85*</b>	<b>95*</b>	Loud announcers / MCs	80-90	90-100
Announcers/vocalists excl yelling or high volume	85	90			
Cinema with no sub-woofers, and volume limiters	70-80	80-90			
Markets and small pop-up activations					

## Glossary

**dBA:** This is a measure of the overall noise level of sound across the audible spectrum with a frequency weighting (i.e. 'A' weighting) to compensate for the varying sensitivity of the human ear to sound at different frequencies.

**dB(C):** A measure of the overall noise level of sound across the audible spectrum with a frequency rating (i.e. 'C' weighting) that places an increased focus on the low frequencies (bass).

**L<sub>Aeq</sub>** (Equivalent Continuous Sound Level): This is the equivalent steady sound level in dBA containing the same acoustic energy as the actual fluctuating sound level over the given period. For a steady sound with small fluctuations, its value is close the average sound pressure level.

**L<sub>Aeq, 5 mins</sub>:** The Equivalent Continuous Sound Level averaged over a 5 minute measurement period.

**LA<sub>90,T</sub>:** This is the dBA level exceeded 90% of the time, T.

**OLGR:** Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation