

From: Chaz Lewis
Sent: Tuesday, 6 April 2010 8:38 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Submission for Inquiry into Live Community Events, Charles Lewis

Mr Charles Lewis

Ms Mary Porter AM MLA
Chair,
Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works,
And Territory and Municipal Services,
Civic Square
London Circuit
Canberra ACT 2600

6th April 2010

Submission for Inquiry into Live Community Events

Dear Ms Porter,

I write to you regarding the Inquiry into Live Community Events. As a life long Canberra resident and performing musician I depend on venues such as the Transit Bar in order to pursue my musical career. I strongly feel that venues such as The Transit Bar require the support of ACT laws in order to sustain the rich musical culture we have through its live events.

Contrary to popular belief, Canberra is a city that has produced many incredibly talented young musicians and performers. Unfortunately, their inability to gain an audience here, due almost exclusively to a lack of venues with which they can perform, forces any serious performing musician to relocate to cities where the opportunities to develop their careers are considerably more abundant.

I view this inquiry as a positive opportunity to encourage the growth of our live music scene and increase the cultural status of Canberra as a city which supports its performing artists and live music enthusiasts.

Whilst I am very sympathetic to the concerns of the residents who occupy our CBD, in this situation, the needs of the many must outweigh the needs of the few and I expect that the majority of the residents in our city center have chosen to live there because of its proximity to live entertainment.

Its also my firm belief that our live music venues offer comparatively safe and stimulating environments for Canberra's night life in contrast to our night clubs (of which there are many) and these live music venues offer something so much more than just alcohol and a dance floor. They offer cultural identity and the opportunity for artistic expression.

The outcome of this inquiry will affect more than just a handful of residents in our CBD, it has the potential to affect an entire generation of Canberra's populace and I believe it is one that must be drawn with that consideration. I thank you in advance for the consideration that this inquiry deserves.

Yours Sincerely,

Charles Lewis