

From: hotmail.com On Behalf Of Ben Drysdale  
Sent: Monday, 12 October 2009 7:06 PM  
To: Committees  
Subject: Submission to the Legislative Assembly regarding Live Music in Canberra

#### Context of this Submission

Cardboard Charlie is a Canberra based arts promotion company that has been dedicated to building artists networks, retailing independent music, and organising and promoting music events since 2004. CC has produced around 500 original music events over the last 5 years.

More recently CC has welcomed the CMC to the local music scene and is engaged on several mutual enterprises. The standard of local live music is high, with loyal audiences and a commitment to the development of talent, but some of the local conditions make it hard for local talent to stay in Canberra when they would like to. Many music events get best audiences late at night, or outside in the summer and this can lead to issues because of noise codes etc. We welcome this inquiry.

Whilst CC and other groups contribute highly beneficially to local music we also seek commitment by local government to assist local talent in music world, and believe that creating a lively culture of music, arts and culture in Canberra would attract greater and more varied audiences to the city.

#### Submission regarding the environment for local music events in Canberra

There is a distinct shortage of medium sized venues (150-500 capacity). Perhaps ACT Government could provide some support for the development of a medium sized, properly soundproofed, music venue for acts to develop their audience and profile. Currently there are small pubs/cafes and large venues like ANU but few places that medium sized events can be run into the night.

Changes to codes, or town planning practices, that enable live music events in the city to continue later in the night. This may include having precincts where residential is not too closely coexisting, or where residents accept that noise is part of the deal when they move in.

Local live music should be (as regular practice) supported and promoted by ACT Government run events such as Celebrate in the Park Canberra bands should be equally considered along with visiting acts, based on quality, exposure, benefits of promoting Canberra etc. They should also be paid fairly, not markedly less just because they are from Canberra. Celebrate in the park paid local acts \$100 while paying \$33,000 each to two headlining acts in its first year

Simplifying and streamlining application processes for licences, grants etc and utilising established arts organisations/groups such as CC and the CMC to

get the word out when they are available.

Regarding bollards, postering and advertising, there is definitely a lot of competition for the ones that already exist, more would be beneficial as they are a great advertising tool and provide physical evidence of a strong arts culture to visitors to the city.

Ben Drysdale  
Cardboard Charlie