

Ms Mary Porter AM MLA  
Chair, Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and  
Territory and Municipal Services

## **SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO LIVE COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Dear Ms Porter,

Thank you for the chance to input into this Inquiry. I make this submission as a young Canberra resident, office worker and amateur musician who desperately wants to see this city pursue its potential to become more vibrant, attractive and socially inclusive.

### **A healthy community events culture needs more than just big events**

Canberra is lucky to be home to some great cultural institutions and big annual events, but there is much more to a vibrant civic life than these. Great cities provide people the opportunity for social interaction, entertainment and engagement, at any time. A city centre should feel alive – with people, and with noise.

### **We should encourage, not discourage, clubs, pubs and restaurants to host musical and other events, particularly during the week**

This ‘second tier’ of smaller scale community events does exist in Canberra, but it is not strong. Publications such as BMA, Fly Magazine, FasterLouder.com.au, and community notice boards do a great job promoting it, but they and the venues who bother to host live events need encouragement rather than discouragement from government and planning authorities. This can occur through simple measures like Government endorsement and promotional support, but it also goes to key structural factors, particularly urban planning.

### **Canberra people should be able to decide between a quieter suburban lifestyle and a louder city lifestyle**

There are many beautiful quiet suburbs in Canberra – I live in one. There are also many locals and visitors who prefer to be in the action all the time. It is unfair for people in commercial hubs to expect the peace and quiet that goes with suburban life. They have the option to move, but our live venues and our city centre do not. Restricting live events because of resident complaints has a far worse impact on the community overall than any noise they create.

Playing and listening to live music is the great passion of my life, as it is for many. It is devastating when venues like Toast and The Greenroom are closed because the loudest voices in the community oppose them and we the patrons lack the organisation to provide stronger support. I fully support the submission made by Mr Andrew Mottram to this Inquiry. I thank you for reading my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Paillas

Lyneham, ACT