

From: Chris Finnigan
Sent: Monday, 8 March 2010 6:26 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Submission to Inquiry into Live Community Events

Dear Mrs Porter

As a life-long resident of Canberra, I wish to make the following submission to the inquiry of the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services into Live Community events.

I believe that the order of occupancy principle, whereby the needs of existing buildings are given preference to the needs of a potential new development, should be adhered to and enshrined in ACT law. Especially in regards to new residential developments that are situated near existing music venues in an entertainment district such as inner-Civic.

Canberra is often derided as lacking a vibrant nightlife and the ACT Government is attempting to rectify this by situating more people within the heart of the city. A strong entertainment culture requires more than just high density living; it requires a vibrant live music and theatre scene. Yet how can such a scene develop if new residents are successfully able to force the closure of existing venues? A potential consequence of the forced closure of entertainment venues in the CBD is that more live performance will be forced into suburban areas which would adversely affect far more people.

I recommend that the needs of existing venues be given preference over new residential developments according to the Order of Occupancy principle, particularly when the new residential development is situated in an entertainment district. It should be incumbent on residential developers within the CBD to adequately soundproof their premises and advise potential residents of the environment they are moving into.

Sincerely

Chris Finnigan