

22 April 2010

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

Dear Ms Porter,

**Inquiry into Live Community Events**

I appreciate the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry. I am a Canberra musician who was fortunate enough to play at the *Gypsy Bar* and *Toast* prior to their closure. I consider the loss of these venues, along with the reduced number of music events at *Tilley's*, to have had a serious impact on live music in Canberra.

Canberra needs more entertainment, more venues and more options for community engagement through the arts.

People who choose to reside in inner-city apartments should anticipate a level of community activity in what should be a vibrant city. I would like to think that while considering the issues under this inquiry the Committee would make a distinction between 'noise pollution' and 'music and entertainment' – which has a rightful place in the heart of any city. Canberra certainly does not have any shortage of quiet streets in which to reside – we do however have a shortage of music venues in which to enjoy ourselves.

I would ask that the Committee be mindful of the impact that policies on noise reduction, insurance and zoning issues will have on the type of city that we want. Canberra already comes under much criticism for being a lifeless city or a city without a soul. Please do not create policies that will continue to encourage our talent to move to Sydney or Melbourne because there aren't opportunities to perform here.

Kind regards

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