

Ms Mary Porter AM MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and
Territory and Municipal Services
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital
Territory
Civic Square, London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2600
committees@act.gov.au

11th April 2010

Subject: **Inquiry into Live Community Events**

Dear Ms Porter,

This submission supports the view that it in Canberra best interests for the ACT government to support live music and events in our community.

It may help if I provide some background to my views in this submission. I moved from Newtown in Sydney to Canberra in 2002 for work in the IT industry. I was very happy and surprised to discover a unique live music and cabaret scene in Canberra unlike anything I had found in Sydney. I found this in venues like the The Front, Hippo, the Transit Bar and the Old Canberra Inn. I heard such great things about the Gypsy Bar that I wish that it too was still around. In part the music and performances in such venues is a contributing factor in my remaining in Canberra.

I would like to make 2 specific points on the advantages of live music in Canberra:

Firstly, as part of my job in Canberra I have been involved in trying to recruit IT staff here from Sydney, mostly focussing on people in their mid to late 20's. I have found a lot of resistance to this with one of the frequently mentioned negatives being the lack of night-life. I feel an increase in available venues can only help attract people here, while a decrease will only reinforce the existing stereotype.

Secondly, I believe existing residences in the city have acquired value due to their proximity to restaurants and live music venues. I further believe that the investment in existing residences can be further improved if the ACTS adopts the infrastructure appropriate to an urban environment (e.g. sound-proofing and security).

Thanks for the opportunity to make this submission.

Sincerely,

Robert Mitchell

Watson A.C.T.