

December 14, 2009

Secretariat - Inquiry into Live Community Events
The Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal
Services
Legislative Assembly for the ACT

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a resident and property owner in the city of Canberra I am writing to provide a submission to the inquiry.

I have had experience in organising, and enjoy attending live events, thus appreciate their value within the community. However, I must comment that I feel the legislation on noise pollution and its relationship to live events is not well managed. I respect and even invite the organization of live events in the city – they add an element of vibrancy. However, this should only be undertaken in such a way as to ensure that the venue is completely sound proofed.

I have experienced the noise made from a bar (Transit Bar) near my place of residence, where live music has been a common feature at an excessive level and late at night. This should not occur in any zoning area where residential property also exists. If I occurred in the suburbs, there would be no doubt that local residents would have the police called to manage the noise. Not only does the excessively loud noise (audible through closed double glazed windows) prevent restful night's sleep, but it also devalues my property.

In your terms of reference, you state to examine “how building codes for residential and business development in commercial zones could be amended to ensure sound insulation and physical security are appropriate to co-location with live cultural events.” The responsibility should be on any venue that wishes to hold live events to ensure complete sound proofing, and not require any retrofitting of existing residential or other business properties.

Yours sincerely,
Dianne McGrath