

Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Civic Square
Canberra, ACT 2601
committees@act.gov.au

Inquiry into Live Community Events

I wish to make the submission below to the inquiry of the Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services into Live Community events.

I am a resident of the Inner North of Canberra.

An interim report of 3 December 2009 by this committee of the ACT government* recommends relaxing noise restrictions for live music (by which is meant electronically amplified music) venues in Canberra. The proposed changes include increasing the time during which noise can be emitted legally from the event.

I oppose any relaxation of noise restrictions on the grounds that the increased noise pollution that results will reduce the amenity of many residents of the Canberra area, particularly those living close to the areas in which the events are allowed to occur.

I note that policy changes with such potential impact on the community were not foreshadowed explicitly in the committee's terms of reference. This meant that the people most likely to be detrimentally affected by them were not alerted to this inquiry. The committee invited "stakeholders" to make submissions to it but these stakeholders did not apparently include the local residents who would have the most to lose from such changes. I only learnt of the existence this inquiry myself from the article published in the *Canberra Times* of 12 December 2009.

Andrew Stewart

15 December 2009

*<http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/committees/index1.asp?committee=113&inquiry=770&category=13>