

From: David Denham

Sent: Friday, 9 December 2011 3:59 PM

To: Committees

Subject: Inquiry into the future use of the Fitters' Workshop in the Kingston arts precinct

To the Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs

I was very surprised to learn that this issue had been referred to this Standing Committee.

I contend that although the acoustics of the Fitters' Workshop in its current layout may be good for choral singing, the arguments to retain it as a Music Hall are flawed.

There are many venues in Canberra where music can be performed. Why do we need another one?

The groups who are pushing for this option don't appear to have submitted to government a business plan outlining how the the Workshop would function.

They have not provided any documentation on how the acoustics would be changed if the Workshop were to be properly fitted out as a concert hall.

All we appear to have from music groups is that the Workshop **in its present configuration** has excellent acoustics for choral singing.

I can see no reason for the taxpayer to fund the engagement of an external expert to report to the Committee. If the music groups want to change the plan they should have submitted expert reports and business plans at the time the budget was being debated in the Assembly.

My understanding is that Megalo Print Studio & Gallery funding was agreed to in the 2011/12 Budget. I contend that the Fitters Workshop is a very appropriate site for the printers. It will

provide a much needed permanent home for our printers and I believe they will make a very valuable contribution to Australia's creative industries and the community.

There are many music halls in Canberra, but we don't have a suitable home for printers.

So stick with the original decision. The arguments to change this are weak and flawed.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Denham AM