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SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO LIVE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dear Ms. Porter,

I am writing in order to make a submission to the ACT Legislative Assembly's Inquiry into Live Community Events.

I strongly support this inquiry and wish to address the issue of noise within the city.

Noise is an inescapable part of modern life. Traffic, aircrafts, dogs, lawn mowing and of course music are all some of the contributors to the noise which surrounds our cities. It is impossible to live in a city or suburban area which manages to avoid all of these everyday occurrences.

In Canberra the issue today is the noise caused by live music and community events in the heart of the city, in particular events held at Transit Bar. Transit Bar is a small bar which holds approximately 100 patrons, making it relatively small compared to many of the other establishments in the city. As Mr Marc Grainger stated in his submission, Transit Bar has gone to great lengths to accommodate the residential apartments nearby, installing sound proofing and hiring sound technicians to ensure noise does not exceed the decibels allowed for that particular zone.

Although these restrictions have been put in place, Transit Bar is constantly fielding noise complaints, particularly from residents of the Waldorf Apartments located across the road. The Waldorf Apartments previously directed their complaints towards the nightclub Toast, causing the owner much stress and taking a great toll which eventually lead to its closure. I sincerely hope that Transit Bar does not face the same fate, as that would be a very tragic result for Canberra's young and vibrant music scene.

I do agree that regulations and polices to minimise the impact of businesses on residential apartments need to be revised, but by no means should these businesses be discouraged from existing. I suggest that all businesses and residential buildings (both new and existing) located within the city zone be required by law to have adequate soundproofing such as double glazed windows. Many buildings already have this measure in place, and as the city grows it will become very much a necessity. I think it is also very important to note that a person who chooses to live in the heart of the city can not expect the city to be quiet around them. People choose to live to the city to be close the bars, restaurants, transport, shopping centres etc that all reside nearby. To want to live in the middle of the city and not have to experience any noise is not just unreasonable, it's impossible.

Canberra has a wealth of musical talent and supporters at it's fingertips; an aspect we should be strongly encouraging and investing in. Restricting the already small number of live venues will only do harm, leading to an exodus of young, creative people to other cities where their passions are adequately supported. We should be working to draw more people to the city for music and community events, not discouraging and restricting people so much that they move away. In the last couple of years, several music & community based events have drawn hundreds (if not thousands) of interstate guests; these include the Dragon Dreaming Festival, the Folk Festival & the Corinbank Festival. At events like these, Canberrans have had the chance to not only showcase their talents, but to earn an income and gain skills in new areas. As well as live venues, these festivals are a prime example of the type of event we should be nurturing, drawing tourism to Canberra and supporting our own local talent.

To summarise, Canberra is still a relatively young city. We should be encouraging and supporting all aspects of culture and events; building the foundations for Canberra to be an amazing city for people of all ages and interests to be able to live harmoniously.

Yours sincerely,

Nerissa Ryan