

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

April 8 2010

Dear Ms Porter

### **Submission to the Inquiry into Live Community Events**

As someone who comments in the press in Canberra about the live music scene in the city, I felt I would like to add my voice to the ongoing debate surrounding the inquiry, with regard to certain specific points, viz

#### **Order of Occupation**

Should really be taken more seriously into account – anyone moving into, or buying for investment purposes, a property near an entertainment establishment that is adhering to already stringent noise restrictions should not be allowed to complain about any perceived ‘nuisance’. Anyone moving into an inner city area must already be aware that they tend to be noisy places.

#### **Building Codes**

If the ACT government is serious about it’s commitment to arts and culture in the territory – by which I mean the real arts and culture with which thousands of young Canberrans are connected via the live music/performance scene (both as participants and observers), as opposed to the provision of expensive, ultimately useless ‘street art’, then they must see that building legislation eases the lot of existing live music venues. If compliance is a problem (especially for soundproofing) could I suggest a diversion of funds from the provision of white elephants such as the pieces of ‘art’ that litter the city to provide financial help for venues struggling to make any required improvements?

I would also suggest, as an adjunct to this, that the owners of the Waldorf Apartments on Akuna Street also embark on a rigorous soundproofing programme of their estate. I have stayed in these apartments, and was kept awake not by any live music or violent hoons spilling out of the Transit Bar opposite, but by traffic noise - it’s a city centre location after all.

#### **Canberra – It’s Not as Boring as You Think**

Not at the moment maybe, but if this situation is not addressed very soon then it will be. Most acts of international stature already bypass Canberra, and, if venues such as the Transit Bar are forced to close then up-and-coming interstate acts will struggle to find a platform in the territory too. If the ACT government wishes to make Canberra a vibrant place to live in, it needs to stop the aggressive support and prosecution of noise

complaints and find a solution that will enable what few venues we have in the city to flourish whilst in some way alleviating the conflict seemingly sought by people such as the proprietors of the Waldorf Apartments, to the ultimate satisfaction of all parties.

I feel very strongly that the government is being seen to support 'the big end of town' in this issue, and should do as much as it can to redress the balance in a positive manner in support of a viable solution.

Yours etc

Scott Adams

Music writer, The Canberra Times, BMA Magazine