



12 March 2010
Ms Mary Porter AM MLA,
Chair,
Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works,
And Territory and Municipal Services,
Civic Square,
London Circuit,
Canberra ACT 2600

Ms Porter,

I open my argument by referring to the comment made by Dean Ormston of APRA submission particularly interesting and relevant to our current predicament concerning increased conflict with those who live in the city centres.

‘Each of Australia’s major cities has a vibrant music scene, and in each of these cities the environment that has fostered this scene is under threat from the process of urban renewal. The movement of people back into city centres is generally viewed by all as a positive. However, rather than a harmonious cohabitation, there is often conflict.’

As of the end of 2009, Transit Bar has endured relentless pressure, particularly as a consequence of the increase of permanent residents moving into the Waldorf Apartments (of which is now at levels of seventy percent or more) who are concerned about ‘extreme loud music’ emanating from the venue.

Let me assure these concerned members of the public that Transit Bar has always operated in the realms of the law, particularly the Environmental Protection Act 2007 and the decibel limitations pertaining to the zone that the venue is situated.



We do not condone 'extreme' levels of noise or 'extreme' behaviour of our patrons and do everything in our power to minimise any negative impact that our activities may have on surrounding businesses.

Any complaints (and these have been very few until recently) either legitimate or vexatious have always been taken seriously and have received a response in writing outlining the changes and measures made to (recent changes made to our business model include the significant reduction of live amplified music) relieve any pressure experienced and ultimately reduce future conflict so that we can trade and cohabit within the area harmoniously.

Mark Higgins of the Waldorf Apartments makes the suggestion in his submission that live music venues be adequately sound proofed as to prevent sound pollution. Transit Bar has sound proofing infrastructure in place to minimise 'sound leakage' in the forms of insulation and other anti- sound devices. Furthermore we employ at great cost, qualified and experienced sound technicians to manage live events and to adhere to the requirements of the law.

As I have just clearly outlined in previous paragraphs, Transit Bar strives for 'harmonious cohabitation' through compliance with the appropriate laws, proactive conflict resolution, supply of adequate sound proofing infrastructure in the venue and employing professional sound engineers to manage sound. It seems that, even with this attention to compliance for live entertainment, it is still not sufficient enough to compete with the demands and pressures of a populated city centre.

Marc Grainger
General Manager
Transit Bar