

From: Walsh, Nick
Sent: Thursday, 4 March 2010 5:25 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Inquiry into Live Community Events [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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

Re: Inquiry into Live Community Events

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a resident in the city of Canberra I am writing to provide a submission to the inquiry.

I do not wish to live in a silent city where the law prevents music from being heard on the streets.

I chose to live in the city so I could take advantage of the greater availability of cultural resources (such as art, theatre, events, music, bars, clubs, libraries, etc) as compared to suburban or rural areas.

It is inappropriate for my near-neighbours at the Waldorf to make the lifestyle choice of voluntarily choosing to purchase or rent a unit in the middle of a city, and then complain about urban noise and a lack of peace and tranquillity, and demand the closure of entertainment venues.

No doubt you will receive submissions from wealthy owners and tenants complaining that this matter adversely affects their current and future city investment opportunities.

I suggest that there is no 'city' without public life. In the last ten years, Canberra has progressed towards becoming a city known for its art and culture. Closing down what nightlife currently exists is a direct step backwards.

Transit Bar provides a valuable service to the Canberra community. Transit Bar's patrons are considerate and mature compared to the nightlife at the other end of the city (Mooseheads, ICBM nightclubs and other places with a heavy police presence and a high incidence of alcohol-fuelled violence). The bar provides invaluable opportunities for many residents, music-lovers and students involved in the arts and entertainment industries.

On Friday and Saturday nights I can hear noise and loud music from the Monkey Bar

on Bunda Street. Should this be closed down too? I can also hear the shouting and noise of drunken people walking between the Casino and London Circuit, the Casino and the bus interchange, etc. Sometimes there are teenagers yelling at each other in the middle of the night. But this is part of living in the very centre of the city, and it does not bother me. I do not believe that we should close down Transit Bar, the Casino, or Monkey Bar, nor should we shut down all the roads at 7pm, for example, to avoid traffic noise pollution.

I believe that a vibrant and diverse entertainment sector is an important part of Canberra's cultural attractiveness and artistic diversity, and that it is the responsibility of the Waldorf hotel/apartment owners to invest in some insulation and sound-proofing for their units if they do not wish to hear any outside noise whatsoever.

Regards,
Nicholas Walsh
Canberra City 2601