



2011 Residents' Association Inc.

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17 January 2014

2011 Residents' Association Submission

RE: 2013 Live Music and Performance Action Plan

INTRODUCTION

Submission in response to the report prepared by the Live Music and Live Performance Taskforce.

There is a feeling afoot that the recommendations of the Taskforce are a fait accompli and any submissions will be ignored. This is based on information in a newsletter dated 22 November 2013 where the Lord Mayor described the TaskForce report as "Our plan to support live music..." & also a media article which stated:-

*"Moore and her constituents have come up with a viable solution to revive Sydney's ailing live music scene: **inner city residents should shut up and put up with the noise.**"*

(Article titled *Sydney Plots Live Music Revival With "Groundbreaking" Action Plan*, dated 4 November 2013, on website Toned deaf, <http://www.toned deaf.com.au/news/local-news/360484/sydney-plots-live-music-revival-with-groundbreaking-action-plan.htm>)

We would like to believe that our views which are expressed in this submission will be given due consideration.

The statements by the Lord Mayor and Tonedead do not accord with the Terms of Reference of the Taskforce which stated inter alia:

The objective of the Live Music and Live Performance Taskforce is to propose programs and policies that support the vibrancy and sustainability of the live music and live performance sector.

*The Live Music and Live Performance Taskforce is to consider current issues affecting the provision of live music and live performance in Sydney and then use these findings to inform the development of a Live Music and Live Performance Action Plan that identifies short, medium and long-term remedial actions the City of Sydney might take. **The Action Plan and its recommendations will be considered by the City of Sydney for adoption and implementation.***

The Taskforce comprised 11 members:

7 - persons directly involved in the music industry

1 - a Brisbane City Council employee involved in that City's live music program

2 - Melbourne academics with expertise in music

1 - a representative of the NSW division of the Australian Hotels Association.

There were no residents' representatives on the Taskforce.

We consider the Taskforce report is an ambit claim by the live music industry – and its requests for action should be viewed in such light.

We have elected to make a submission - we will **not** "shut up".

SUMMARY OF TASK FORCE PROPOSALS

1

Establish and fund a unit ("Live Music Unit") within Council to carry out proposed functions

2

The role of the Live Music Unit is proposed to be to:

2-1

Advocate for NSW legislative changes

2-2

Advocate for process change by State government departments

2-3

Liaise with State government departments

2-4

Drive changes in Council policies

2-5

Review existing Council policies and recommend changes

2-6

Carry out building code related activities

2-7

Miscellaneous functions including being a one-stop shop for musicians, prepare and distribute information guides for musicians, conduct education programs for Council staff, provide a mediation service to resolve amenity complaints, work with AHA to increase number of hotel performance spaces,

conduct audits, equip venues, develop a marketing strategy for musicians, conduct annual venue satisfaction surveys, and create an annual reporting process.

SUBMISSIONS

(A) Loss of Residential Amenity

The 2011 Residents' Association has as its primary focus the enhancement and protection of residents' amenity.

The amenity of residents can be detrimentally affected by factors such as crowded streets and noise.

We cannot ascertain any particular proposal in any of the 54 Taskforce recommendations which indicates that residents' amenity will be affected or protected.

However, from the comments made by the music industry (referred to in our Introduction above), it appears there is a perception that adoption of the Taskforce recommendations will create noise and loss of peaceable enjoyment for residents.

In late 2013 when Live Music was under discussion in Council, both the Lord Mayor and another Councillor stated that greater levels of noise would be experienced in the Kings Cross/Potts Point area and that residents would simply have to get used to it.

Given these statements in Council and in the media as to the likely impacts of the Live Music recommendations, the 2011 Residents' Association is disturbed and alarmed. We cannot support the Taskforce recommendations, and to the extent they will create greater noise for residents oppose them.

(B) Cost to Ratepayers

There is no information as to the cost of setting up the Live Music Unit or the cost of its ongoing operation.

The 2011 Residents' Association cannot support the writing of what is essentially a blank cheque to fund the Live Music Unit.

(C) Support for a Specialist Industry Group

Effectively the proposals amount to the establishment of a vehicle to promote the interests of members of a specialist industry group, namely musicians.

The NRMA promotes the interests of car owners and does so through similar activities as those of the proposed Live Music Unit e.g. advocacy for legislative change, assistance to members and research. The NRMA, however, is fully funded by its members and it does not draw on public funds to promote its special interests.

Likewise, there are many industry groups representing a trade or profession, which carry out similar functions to the proposed Live Music Unit. These industry bodies are fully funded by member contributions.

Ratepayers are now being asked to fund a similar body for musicians. The 2011 Residents' Association opposes use of ratepayers funds for this purpose.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Crossing

2011 Residents' Association