

[REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 17 February 2019 6:27 PM
To: DLGSC Act Review
Subject: Additional comments for review of local government

Thanks for the opportunity to respond.

One of my main concerns is where councils appear not to have the best interests of their community well being but a financial profit from some of the enterprises that they undertake.

As an example I live in Fremantle city ward, but on the outskirts on Monument Hill. When I moved in many years ago we had one or two concerts a year that had a minor impact on our amenity and these were usually limited in duration. Over the past 5 or 6 years this has changed significantly with the Mayor actively promoting our city as a party venue.

The city now regularly encourages and promotes Fremantle as an entertainment centre allowing very loud outdoor musical concerts throughout the year that are often not compliant with the WA governments Health Departments own guidelines. Regularly allowing maximum levels of 110 dBA and for durations of up to 12 hours a day, sometimes for 2 or 3 consecutive days at a time (i.e Falls Festival). Guidelines recommend 100dBA for up to 6 hours. The noise levels and especially duration I receive are very upsetting, and as I don't have airconditioning and use the Freo doctor for cooling my unit leaving windows closed isn't an option.

When raised with council they are reluctant to change saying it will discourage people from coming to Fremantle and pointing out the financial benefit but ignoring the impact on their own residents amenity. I suggested a survey of inner city residents who bear the brunt of this noise and council refused to consider this, probably as they didn't want to find out the true impact to inner city residents.

Given the recent passing of Northbridge entertainment precinct and possible rollout to other areas I am very concerned we will lose any chance of limiting concert levels and durations to a more acceptable level. Northbridge is very different from Fremantle, the area is limited and very rare for outdoor concerts whereas Fremantle has concerts ranging over a wide geographic area city area from Esplanade to Kings Square, Fremantle football grounds, Fremantle prison and Arts Center plus street festivals.

Councils should be required to regularly carry out Noise Impact surveys after each **major** event and then adapt noise levels to ensure a happy medium is achieved. The Northbridge plan reverses this onus and places it on new developers and new residents, which doesn't help all the existing residents where the cost of retrofitting double glazing, air conditioners and insulation to existing buildings (some historic) is prohibitive. Also Northbridge usually has indoor entertainment in pubs, clubs and other venues but not major outdoor concerts. All major outdoor concerts should be held at suitable venues such as the new Burswood stadium or in semi-rural areas, not in major town centres.

Regards,

Keith O'Brian

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