



Planning for Live Entertainment

Workshop Discussion

Summary

9 October 2019

Overview

1. Purpose of this document

This document is a summary of the workshop discussion, drawing on the notes taken by EPSDD staff, comments on worksheets by participants and high-level ideas scribed on the whiteboard in group discussions.

Ideas, challenges, opportunities and issues from the different workshop activities have been grouped under the most relevant workshop objective, where possible. Direct but unattributed quotes from participants are included to illustrate a point.

This summary will be used by EPSDD to help inform an action plan due for release on 31 October 2019.

This document is not a report. It does not make recommendations and participant comments have not been analysed or themed.

Every effort has been made to accurately capture what participants said and wrote

This document was compiled by EPSDD and Jacinta Cubis, the independent workshop facilitator.

2. Overview

- Participants want the ACT to have thriving live entertainment and night-time economy and were pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to this discussion.
- The session provided some robust conversation between participants, however, there was agreement, or an openness to compromise, on some topics including:
 - The urgency to implement an action plan for live entertainment.
 - The need for clear and concise information for planning and development in mixed use and entertainment areas.
 - The need to have gradients when considering entertainment areas that protect some areas and allow for spontaneous development in others.
 - What is meant by terms such as Live Entertainment, Live Entertainment Venues and Entertainment Areas (see notes below).
- The session highlighted a range of complex issues to unpack and resolve.
- Participants said and commented that they 'learned from others' and liked the dialogue and broad range of discussion.

*"The longer we wait the harder that conversation becomes."
"We've only just scratched the surface."*

3. Workshop format

- Group discussion with Minister Gentleman ('ACT live entertainment in 2030')
- 'What we mean by...'
- Feedback on draft actions
- Thanks from Minister Ramsay

Notes from discussions

1. Session Objectives

Develop a shared understanding amongst stakeholders of what live entertainment includes, why it is important, and what the opportunities and issues related to live entertainment and late-night trading in urban centres are.

- Live entertainment includes:
 - 24-hour entertainment precincts where cultural and economic activity occurs including retail, hospitality, transport and live entertainment.
 - Not just limited to music – includes things like poetry slams, jazz bands, sport, festivals, start-up businesses, youth entrepreneurship, open air theatres, DJ's, cultural institutions.

Issues/Opportunity
 - Need to normalise the type of noise and vibrancy that an entertainment area might experience (helps with noise and safety issues). Entertainment noise stands out as we have a comparatively low ambient noise level in urban centres compared to other capitals.
 - Greater transparency and awareness of noise in group and town centres needs to be clearly communicated so that potential residents have a better idea of what to expect if they live in an area with live entertainment.
 - Safety must be considered hand in hand with entertainment areas. How do we facilitate a vibrant nightlife that is also considered safe (safe areas help attract business, attract diverse groups, encourage student growth etc.).
- Opportunities*
- Garema Place as a vibrant cultural and economic area – businesses spilling out into the public realm e.g. outdoor dining.
 - Transport is interconnected with the concept of entertainment areas – accessibility (e.g. public transport hours and services) and transport noise need to be considered.
- Issues*
- Limiting spontaneous growth of music, entertainment etc. (i.e. if we adopt an entertainment area model, does this squash the spontaneous growth of entertainment in areas outside of this? Lonsdale St. Braddon has been an organic and spontaneous growth of venues, hospitality etc – do we stifle this if adopting an entertainment area model?)
 - If there are only a small number of venues which offer live music, then there won't be sufficient opportunities to support full-time musicians. Conversely, if there are few opportunities or places to play, it may not attract many musicians.
 - Potential venue operators need confidence to invest in venue set-up.
 - Urgency to make something happen – there is already development planned and underway along Northbourne, if it takes another 4-5 years to make policy change those developments may not have proper noise attenuation (under assumption that Northbourne becomes an entertainment area of some type).

"...businesses spilling out onto Garema Place and not paying for the space they're taking up."

"...want to be able to go to more than Mooseheads."

"....there is a place for long standing cultural institutions to play a part."

"...venues are closing due to land use conflict."

"...we don't want to be trying to manufacture a music scene that isn't authentic."

Discuss how and where live entertainment and late-night trading could occur while also considering amenity of other businesses and residents in areas where activities occur.

- Some possible entertainment areas were suggested, including land in city and town centres, industrial areas and non-urban areas. Some of these are under the National Capital Authority's jurisdiction and are not subject to ACT Government's planning controls.
- Some participants called for a planning overlay across a mix of town centres and other areas to designate entertainment areas.
- Tiers of 'entertainment areas' and/or gradients of planning overlays to distinguish between different types of entertainment areas.
- Consideration of mixed-use developments – people are increasingly choosing to live in mixed-use areas but we need to ensure we provide clear, concise and timely information to buyers/residents in these areas.
- Noise attenuation is easier and cheaper to include in initial construction rather than retrofitting later.
- Need a clear vision of how we get from now to future of entertainment areas – where does entertainment exist so that planning and development can appropriately cater for greater noise levels etc.
- Liquor licensing fees – it was alleged that the 2010 increases in fees have led to a contraction of night-time venues (nightclubs) therefore fees and if/how they're increased need to be part of the conversation.
- Transition period for residential developments to adopt any new noise standards etc. is a must when implementing anything.

"What do we do to older buildings to take (it) through to the future?"

"Want to give early information to members about noise attenuation."

"No way to overcome DBA issues in mixed-use areas."

"Less transport noise due to more electric cars. (we'll need) additional measures to mitigate noise."

"Music is being punished for the fact that there is no other noise in Civic."

Seek constructive feedback and insights from stakeholders involved in live entertainment to inform the draft Entertainment Action Plan.

- Young people are missing from the conversation – we need to hear from them.
- If part of the solution is better noise insulation/attenuation in residential buildings, how do we deal with older buildings in areas which become entertainment areas?
- How do we still promote spontaneous growth of venues and live music within a 'hub and spoke' (i.e. town centre and corridor) entertainment area model?

"...find a balance to co-exist and have a true mix of people living (in the city) and clubs."

"A totally 'hub and spoke' model that is planned kills spontaneous growth."

"Once you start (designating areas)...create a regulatory framework and it becomes restrictive."

"Why can't we have a couple of places in the city where entertainment is primary and residential is subordinate?"

‘What we mean by...’

After the group discussion with Minister Gentleman and a short break, participants worked in small groups to articulate what is meant by live entertainment, live entertainment venues and entertainment areas. This provoked a productive and lengthy discussion, with the whole group reaching clear consensus on one term (live venues). The term ‘entertainment areas’ resulted in a set of principles to provide context for the action plan, rather than a definition. EPSDD collated all comments at the workshop. Participants erred on the side of high-level wording to cater for the ‘unknown’ in the future, in reference to the opening activity to imagine live entertainment in 2030. Built environment stakeholders emphasised the importance of including ‘mixed use’ in terminology.

“How do we cater to emerging forms that we don’t have access to now?”
“Categorising artwork and types of art is difficult. Where do we draw the line?”

Live entertainment is the creation and broadcast of art, performance and sport that can take place in public and private spaces.

Live entertainment venues are places and spaces where people gather to experience live entertainment.

Entertainment Areas are supported through strategies and steps that:

- Allow for more live entertainment in certain parts of Canberra
- Dedicate areas to support artists and live entertainment
- Consider a scale of areas
- Support a range of uses and experiences in mixed-use areas
- Encourage spontaneous and organic growth.

Attendees

Organisation	Individual
MusicACT	David Caffery
MusicACT	Daniel Ballantyne
Australian Hotels Association	Anthony Brierley
Live Music Office	John Wardle
Australian Acoustical Society	Tim Kuschel
Australian Acoustical Society	Zhang Lai
Planning Institute of Australia	Imogen Featherstone
Property Council ACT	Adina Cirson
RUC Turner	Jeremy Wilcox
Polish White Eagle Club	Andrew Bajkowski
Harmonie German Club	Susan Davidson
King O'Malley's	Peter Barclay
National Capital Authority	Andrew Smith
National Capital Authority	Suzanne Hannema
Clubs ACT	Gwyn Rees
ACT Government	Gordon Ramsay MLA
EPSDD	Ben Ponton
EPSDD	Carolyn O'Neill
EPSDD	Karen Wilden
CMTEDD	Amal Davis
CMTEDD	Charmaine Smith
ArtsACT	Jenny Spear
Events ACT	Jo Verden
Environment Protection Authority	Narelle Sargent
Alistair Swayn Internship	Daniel Schorn

Minister Mick Gentleman, Minister for Planning and Land Management, and Minister Gordon Ramsay, Minister for the Arts, Creative Industries and Cultural Events, attended for the first hour and last hour respectively to hear directly from participants.

Independent facilitator: Jacinta Cubis