

# BACK LIVE MUSIC BEFORE IT'S GONE

## INVEST IN ARTISTS AND INDUSTRY TO KEEP LIVE MUSIC ALIVE

Canberra has a diverse and dynamic local music scene. Festival faves like Spilt Milk, National Folk Festival and Stonefest are joined by newcomers like Digi Music and Culture. Venues like Smith's, The Basement and UC host homegrown talent like Genesis Owusu, The Cashews and Peking Duk. School groups like Kulture Break and SubsDance foster our future creatives.

But live music is in trouble. Covid hit performers and venues hard and conditions have worsened since. Half of our musicians earned [less than \\$6,000 last year](#). Streaming services don't pay good money. Local musicians can't afford to live here, let alone play here. Our venues are struggling too - it's hard to sell tickets and drinks, let alone meet rising insurance costs. We saw this on a large scale with Groovin' the Moo cancelled this year, but the smaller businesses are struggling every day.

The good news is this sector is full of creative people and they have lots of ideas to solve these problems. The ACT Greens have listened and put together a plan to support artists and industry to keep live music alive and thriving in Canberra.

### THE ACT GREENS WILL:

- ▲ Get the settings right for our Civic and Gungahlin entertainment precincts by working with the community and the sector
- ▲ Create dedicated entertainment precincts for Belconnen, Molonglo, Woden, Tuggeranong and EPIC to ensure artists and residents can live in harmony
- ▲ Fix public liability insurance so it works for the sector
- ▲ Create an Industry Development Officer to help artists professionalise

## ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCTS

The ACT Greens will work with the entertainment sector and the community to get the settings right for the new Civic and Gungahlin entertainment precincts. We will then establish additional precincts in Belconnen, Molonglo, Woden, Tuggeranong and at EPIC.

Establishing entertainment precincts helps to protect the long-term future of the music and entertainment industry without exposing residents or businesses to unreasonable or unexpected levels of noise.

Dedicated precincts set out good building standards and clear guidelines on noise limits and opening hours to keep live music going as people move into nearby suburbs.

The ACT Greens also want to ensure our entertainment precincts are serviced with great public transport, have late-night food and hospitality options, good lighting and atmosphere that brings the area to life.

## FIX PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Public liability overheads have skyrocketed. Some ACT venues have seen a tenfold increase in premiums and excess. There's no competition in the insurance market and many businesses are close to breaking point as a result.

Federal, state and local governments are working on this but we need to deliver solutions.

The ACT Greens will work with the sector to put together the best package to make sure our entertainment businesses have a secure future. We have been looking at options including the risk management tools that are already in development by the sector, law reform and direct Government support.

## INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Grant funding is often dedicated to producing great recordings, but new musicians also need business skills to navigate the industry.

The ACT Greens will create an Industry Development Officer to support local musicians and help them upskill and professionalise. This person will help artists identify new opportunities using existing resources - like corporate work and Government contracts and grants. They will work with the sector and musicians to propose new programs, like songwriting workshops or peer-to-peer mentorships.

This paid resource would sit within ArtsACT or MusicACT and be dedicated to supporting musicians and helping them become more successful on their chosen path.

## WHAT'S THE INVESTMENT?

\$100K per annum + CPI for an Industry Development Officer for the music sector. Other elements are within existing resources.