INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Please note that I have recently opened an office in Newcastle in order to provide a vibrant and creative location for my staff to make their home.

However, connecting the dots between the rapid growth of inner city appartments and the demise of live music venues I have seen in Sydney, I fear that the very things that have made Newcastle appealing will soon be lost.

Instead, when I visit Melbourne I see that the balance of inner city dense living and a vibrant street life seems to have been found.

I therefore strongly urge the inquiry to consider recommending laws that protect existing venues from shut-downs due to complaints of incoming residents - and instead protect existing use

I have recently visited Italy where dense living provides a driver for vibrant streets. I fear that without decisive action, Newcastle like Sydney will overcome by the spread of social and cultural deserts.