



# SUE PENNICUIK MLC

Member of the Legislative Council  
Southern Metropolitan Region

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Patrick Donovan  
CEO  
Music Victoria  
Email: [info@musicvictoria.com.au](mailto:info@musicvictoria.com.au)

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for writing to me regarding Music Victoria's 2014 Victorian state election report card and seeking our views on a number of issues related to live music in Victoria.

I am pleased to provide you with the following responses on behalf of the Victorian Greens.

## **Regional live music action plan**

Yes, the Greens strongly support the idea of a regional live music action plan that focuses on the establishment, growth and renewal of suburban and regional infrastructure to support local live music with support for local government involvement.

For example, Greens Councillor, Belinda Coates, has been a strong advocate for the inclusion of a Live Music Strategy in the Ballarat City Council plan. Music Victoria's first regional Live Music Summit was held in Ballarat and included a roundtable and discussion around developing and sustaining the local live music scene. Ballarat City Council also hosted the launch of the Music Victoria Regional Live Music Census and are setting up the community reference group for Ballarat.

## **Increase arts funding for contemporary music**

Yes, the Greens support increased funding for a range of local 'grass roots' arts initiatives, including for contemporary music.

## **Quick response grants for musicians and music businesses**

Yes, the Greens are committed to ensuring that grant application processes are simple to access, independently evaluated and free from political manipulation.

## **Celebrate and promote Melbourne's rich music heritage**

Yes, the Victorian Greens place a high value on Melbourne's world renowned live music heritage. Greens Melbourne City Councillors are a driving force behind the City of Melbourne Music Strategy - Supporting and Growing the City's Music Industry, and are working with Music Victoria and the Victorian Government to investigate Melbourne's eligibility to join the Creative Cities Network as a UNESCO City of Music, to recognise Melbourne's rich musical heritage and with industry to promote Melbourne as a national and international music destination for music-making and investment.

Greens councillors, on Melbourne City Council, sponsored the new "Amphlett Lane" proposal. The Greens have strongly advocated for the protection of historic live music venues such as the Palace in Bourke St., and the refurbishment of the Palais in St Kilda.

The Greens would also like to see the state government partner with local councils and the music industry to tell the fantastic story of Melbourne's live music heritage, which Tourism Victoria could tailor for information as Melbourne's Music Story projects are put together.

### **Increased support for professional development programs**

Yes, the Greens support more professional development programs for musicians and improved employment opportunities and prospects for musicians by enabling them to access affordable artistic, professional and business training for better career development.

We would also like to see the provision of government funding for artist-run initiatives, exhibitions, festivals, performance spaces and publishing ventures and the expansion of programs to support emerging artists, such as the introduction of a fixed income support scheme (federal level) and better access to small business start-up grants and schemes.

### **Industry trade and export initiatives**

Yes, the Greens support the idea of industry trade and export initiatives, developed in consultation with musicians and music technicians, including the development of national and international art and artist exchanges.

### **Preference Victorian music in Government purchasing**

Yes, the Greens strongly agree that government, whether through major events, advertising or other government projects, should give preference to local artists and musicians as it should support other local industries through its purchasing policies. Government should also fund regular research into issues affecting the Victorian arts sector, including live music.

### **Establish a contemporary music hub**

Yes, the Greens support the establishment of a contemporary music hub. Greens Melbourne City Councillors' action this year on the 'music hub' is to contribute to appropriate industry and state-based initiatives into researching the feasibility of a dedicated music space in the City of Melbourne particularly those that leverage off on any previous research into such a space or other options to create "critical mass" in the music sector. To be successful, this will require hard work from the Council, the industry and support from the state government which the Greens will pursue.

### **Sponsor an industry development plan**

Yes, the Greens support an industry development plan, by ensuring the provision of government funding for artist-run initiatives, exhibitions, performances, and publishing ventures. This will require government to facilitate the early engagement of musicians and others in the planning stages and setting minimum standards to ensure the involvement of artists and their representative organisations in development and evaluation of arts policy and programs.

### **Develop, support and coordinate industry events and conferences in November**

Yes, the Greens strongly support industry events and conferences in November. In particular the AWME, Face the Music, Melbourne Music Week and The Age Music Vic Awards, should be supported, built on, packaged and marketed to the world, as they will cement Melbourne's position as a City of Music.

**UNESCO application for City of Music (or other suitable recognition)**

Yes, the Greens support Melbourne joining the Creative Cities Network as a UNESCO City of Music.

**Reform of EPA noise regulations (2 year process commenced)**

Yes, the Greens policy supports a vibrant and economically viable local live music industry through the removal of barriers which affect the ability of venues to host live music. The Greens have raised the issue of EPA noise regulations as they apply to live music venues on several occasions in state parliament. The review of SEPP N2 is belatedly occurring and it is hoped that a modern approach to the noise standard, coupled with the agent of change principle, should protect many of Melbourne and Victoria's established and new live music venues from unreasonable noise complaints.

**Variation to building code for live music venues (Scheduled for late 2014)**

Yes, the Greens have persistently advocated for implementation of the agent-of-change principle in the state planning scheme and raised the issue on numerous occasions in parliament pushing the government to act on the issue. It is great to see that this is finally occurring.

**State-wide loading zone parking permit system for musicians**

Yes, the Greens would review the road traffic rules to introduce a new class of parking permit for musicians loading in and out of venues.

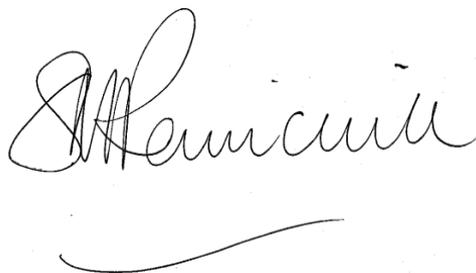
**Organisational funding for Music Victoria**

Yes, the Greens support ongoing government support for Music Victoria. It is our policy that the government should support democratic and properly constituted arts organisations that facilitate networking, advocate for artists and inform government policy making.

Thank you again for seeking our views regarding live music in Victoria.

Please don't hesitate to call me should you require further information.

Yours sincerely,



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