



PCU019633

The Director of Strategic Planning,

4 Feb 2011

Dear Sir/Madam.

My apologies for the lateness of my submission. Regarding the Landcom development of the Defence site at North Penrith, as a nearby resident, I am very concerned about the possibility of increasing noise levels from whatever businesses that may be allowed to set-up in the area. Specifically, I'm referring to pubs and clubs. Events over the last few years have hammered home for me the fact that a person's right to peace in his own home will be swept aside when some entrepreneurial-type wants to make money. A case in point: about four years ago the new management of the Red Cow pub in Penrith began staging very loud "electro-beat" dance parties every Friday night in the warm months and very bad karaoke on Thursday night throughout the whole year. Because the entertainment is held outside and because people nowadays think they need their music turned-up full volume AND because businesses like the Red Cow don't care who they're imposing their noise upon as long as their patrons are buying alcohol, the noise from this pub on both nights is ridiculously loud: amazing in itself because I live about a kilometer from them, (I'm not joking). Every Thursday night the karaoke will last til midnight and every Friday night the "thump-thump-thump" will begin about 10.00pm and go loudly on until 2.30am. That's when my family and I can finally sleep. I won't go into my sustained efforts to try and get the noise turned down but the police and Penrith council are utterly unable to do anything about it because of lack of resources and because the pub owners sight their licence to operate to those hours. (My argument that their licence doesn't allow them to disturb residents didn't hold water with them).

It has had a big impact on my family's home life; it is completely unfair that a business can start-up in an area and impose themselves on people who may want nothing to do with them. Mercifully, another and bigger indoor nightclub has opened nearby the Red Cow which I suspect has impacted their business because the noise has dropped-off... but this was only an utter stroke of luck for me: because two other pubs in Penrith also cause trouble from time-to-time, I have a feeling that it won't be long before we are disturbed again by someone: there is no shortage of "punters" wanting to start some venture wherever they can.

Please understand that I'm not totally against business but my plea is to not let any pubs or clubs set-up at the North Penrith site: they are incapable of keeping their noise to themselves because of outdoor entertainment areas. Cafes or restaurants, which I'm certain will set-up, (and which I happen to like), should have strict rules governing the volume of amplified music they may happen to play at their venues: a few years ago a restaurant in the Penrith CBD decided to put on a band for their outdoor patrons, they received a number of complaints and thank God it happened only once but it illustrates how noise problems can crop-up.

I'm told that the site will be mostly residential so I'm hoping there'll be little industry there. (will there? You just can't take anything for granted!) Thankyou very much for reading and very respectfully, please don't leave out a good space for parklands.

Yours faithfully,
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