

Submission to DCC hearing on minor alteration to Pc
2024-1

Kia Ora Koutou,

I wish to thank the panel for their time and granting me an opportunity to speak to you. Firstly, apologies for the brevity of my initial submission, I have further considered this matter.

I have a Certificate of Proficiency Grade A in Acoustics from Otago University 1992 when acoustics was an offered subject at Otago. My background is as a technician and performer in the entertainment industry with 44 years of being involved in it nationally and internationally.

I am asking you to consider changing the noise insulation standard from 35db to 40db ideally 45db spl isolation for new builds. I believe that having better isolation in the city for residents will improve their overall enjoyment of their residence and not only to alleviate the potential for conflict with the residents near Music venues. The better sound insulation will also mitigate other noise sources that are present in the city, for instance Traffic noise.

Typical Traffic noise is 70-85 db spl inner city and can be as low as 55db spl in residential areas according to Svantek manufacturer of sound measuring equipment to the automotive industry, the levels I have suggested above, further improving the value of these dwellings by significantly reducing inner city noise like traffic noise

Otepoti has had a rich tradition in music culture for quite some time now and the council has traded quite openly in this cultural capital in most of its marketing for at least 30 years.

Increasing inner city development is threatening the venues that most of this culture is performed in. So, for your consideration I am asking for an increase in the standard that the minimum requirement for inner city residence isolation be increased to 40 db. at least and 45db ideally from the 35 db that has been proposed

I wish to refer you to the document STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF JEREMY WILLIAM TREVATHAN ON ACOUSTICS FOR DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL Dated 13 May 2025, specifically to External noise levels section

Sections 10 and 11

10. While detailed analysis of the suitability of the noise limit was not in the scope of the work I have conducted for this plan change, a 60 dB LAeq noise limit is similar to that in many other New Zealand centres including Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown Lakes – where 60 – 65 dB LAeq limits are common in the central city or entertainment districts.

11. In addition, in my experience, a 60 dB LAeq noise limit is one of the options often perceived as a reasonable balance between the costs for venues of lowering noise transmitted to the site boundary, and meeting expectations of neighbours in entertainment districts.

So my final recommendation is for the noise permissible outside a venue be 65 db spl or at least 60db spl and the level of reduction be set at 45 db or at least 40db spl for residential apartments.

If Otepoti wishes to continue with its unique musical heritage and continue to have a dynamic musical culture that it has had in the past ,I believe that developers should raise the standards of their buildings not only to protect the music venues and the 'cities vibrant night life' but also to protect the residents that have chosen an inner city lifestyle, indeed some of them have moved to the city for that very reason of being involved in that culture.

Most cities with a vibrant musical community have initiated reverse sensitivity to protect their music cultures ,usually specific to these areas where a music venue has been operating for some years . I am asking for a similar reverse sensitivity be applied in Otepoti.

I feel that it is important that our city recognises cultural capital as much as physical and monetary capital, indeed we have just witnessed a film celebrating Shayne Carters significant contribution to our Arts and culture and taking it to the world, I very much doubt he would have gone as far as he did without the network of multiple venues that our city once offered ,it is fully my intention to make sure similar opportunities exist for future generations.

Finally no one has ever complained about living in a dwelling that has been built to a better standard, the

developers may even benefit with bigger returns on a better built building.

I thank the panel for its time and hope that you take the above recommendations into consideration

Nga mihi Stephen Kilroy