



THE HON MICHAEL DANBY MHR
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE PORTS



Cr Bernadene Voss, Mayor of City of Port Philip

CC: Councillors, City of Port Phillip

8/6/2016

Dear Mayor Voss and Councillors of City of Port Philip,

I understand from a variety of community sources that the Council has resolved to lease the iconic Palais to Live Nation Australia, an American company with a reputation for locking up venues solely for acts under their control.

The negative implications this decision would impose on the Palais, the local community and the live music scene are enormous.

I have written to Minister D'Ambrosio, asking her to further evaluate her decision on your Council's recommendation, based on the lack of community consultation, debate and the secrecy in which Council has covered this recommendation to State Minister D'Ambrosio.

Respected local promoter Michael Chugg has publicly expressed his concerns saying that "Live Nation has a monopoly and are wiping out other operators" He has also spoken of how this group acquired a chain of amphitheatres in the US and "ran them into the ground".

If this is the track record of Live Nation, one can only fear for the future of the Palais and the live music scene here in St Kilda.

Yet despite warnings from respected locals from the live music scene, your reported decision to grant the contract to an American company with a reputation for ruining live music venues shows contempt the council has for the industry, contempt for the history and culture of St Kilda and contempt for the iconic Palais itself: how tragic if this St Kilda icon was to go the same way as Acland and Fitzroy streets, once culturally vibrant streets, now dead under the watch of this council.

I urge you to reconsider your secretive decision immediately.

Regards,

The Hon. Michael Danby MP
Federal Member for Ports
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for the Arts
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition

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