



Don Harwin MLC

Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities,
Minister for the Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council

Our ref: IRF18/6604

Mr David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Blunt

I refer to the Inquiry into the Music and Arts Economy in NSW (the Inquiry) and the report released on 15 November 2018. I welcome the opportunity to provide a response on behalf of the NSW Government to the Committee's report.

I acknowledge the work of the Committee and the strong role that the arts and music sector plays in driving the night-time economy in Sydney. NSW Government agencies have participated in hearings and provided submissions to the Inquiry.

Arts and culture are a priority for the NSW Government, with \$54.8 million allocated to the Create NSW Arts and Cultural Development Program (ACDP) in 2018-19. In 2017-18 the Government provided \$52.9 million to the ACDP, with over \$11.1 million provided to artists, projects and organisations in the music artform.

Of the 196 organisations Create NSW provided funding to in 2017-18, 22 directly produce and present music works, including Major Performing Arts Companies Australian Chamber Orchestra and Opera Australia, and choirs such as Gondwana Children's Choirs, Moorambilla Voices and Sydney Philharmonia. A further 37 organisations program and present music as part of multi-artform projects and annual activities. The combined value of funding provided to these 59 organisations that directly benefited music related activities is \$23.3 million.

Create NSW has also funded the highly successful Live and Local music initiative in partnership with the Live Music Office and with the support of local councils in Western Sydney and regional NSW. To date, 260 venues have participated in the program, hosting 852 performances with 1359 musicians and an estimated 53,000 people in attendance. Further funding for contemporary music events in 2018/19 will be administered through targeted funding programs.

The NSW Government is committed to providing cultural infrastructure to support the night-time economy. To that end, the Government asked Infrastructure NSW to prepare a Cultural Infrastructure Strategy. This Strategy identified the need to investigate co-location cultural hubs as well as adaptive reuse and expansion of rehearsal spaces. The NSW Government is currently considering our full response to the Cultural Infrastructure Strategy, however the Government released the Cultural Infrastructure Action Plan in December 2017, highlighting the work we have done to date on these recommendations. In addition, as recommended by Infrastructure NSW, the NSW Government established the Regional Cultural Fund, delivering \$100 million to Regional and Rural NSW to invest in Cultural Infrastructure. This fund has enabled the adaptive reuse and/or regeneration of Albury City Council, Pumphouse

Makerspace and Bourke Arts Community Inc, Bourke Ceramic Centre. The Government has also seen fit to invest in critically important conservatoriums, with funding provided in 2018-2019 that enabled Create NSW to rebuild the Riverina Conservatorium of Music and the Wagga Wagga Conservatorium of Music.

The NSW Government is working hard to improve the vibrancy and safety of the night-time economy. In implementing the recommendations of the Government Response to the Night-Time Economy (NTE) Roundtable Action Plan, the NTE Taskforce has focused on practical measures that support live music, festivals, outdoor dining, retail, performing arts and transport.

The measures include activating places and spaces to diversify the night-time economy through sponsoring world class musicals to generate overnight visitation and visitor spend, and supporting the state's cultural institutions, arts and cultural organisations and festivals. Since November 2017, new 24/7 bus services, and bus services that operate all night, seven days per week have commenced on selected routes to support the night-time economy. There are also more police and 24-hour patrols occurring at night in the city.

The Taskforce is also working hard to reduce red tape to encourage a more diverse night-time economy. It is working to streamline planning, building, noise and liquor licensing approval processes, and is reviewing the associated regulatory requirements to make it easier for businesses to host arts and cultural activities. The Government has changed planning laws to make it easier for new venues to be established, such as craft breweries, distilleries and artisan food premises. As at 25 October 2018, 34 venues in the CBD and Kings Cross have been granted live entertainment exemptions allowing later last drinks and lock out times.

To this end, and as part of this work, Create NSW as lead of the NTE Taskforce, is finalising a Contemporary Music Strategy and a Night-Time Economy Strategy. Together, the strategies will deliver on the NSW Government Response to the Night-Time Economy Roundtable Action Plan and will reset the Government's strategic direction in relation to the night-time economy. The strategies will apply a sustainable approach to supporting the music sector and boosting the night-time economy into the future.

Yours sincerely



Don Harwin MLC
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Resources
Minister for Energy and Utilities
Minister for the Arts
Vice-President of the Executive Council

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Received by me on
behalf of the clerk of
the Parliaments at
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