

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 6 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN NEW SOUTH WALES
Supplementary questions: Live Nation**

Answers are to be returned to the Committee secretariat by 7 September 2018.

1. Are you able to supply the Committee with any comparisons between the number of performances and audience attendances in NSW and Victoria that Live Nation is responsible for over the last two years?

		NSW	<i>difference</i>	VIC	SYD	<i>difference</i>	MEL
2016	Shows	135	(100)	235	115	(74)	189
	Tickets sold	420,685	12,749	407,936	405,360	44,898	360,462
2017	Shows	120	(135)	255	106	(142)	248
	Tickets sold	524,906	42,436	482,470	498,093	18,998	479,095
2018	Shows	153	(113)	266	132	(119)	251
	Tickets sold	586,493	18,015	568,478	555,205	(6,774)	561,979

- The major difference between the show counts in Sydney and Melbourne is the presence of long running season events Live Nation contributes to, such as the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.
- Sydney’s Qudos Bank arena is larger than Melbourne’s Rod Laver Arena, and thus tends to host fewer multiple nights

2. What could we do to boost the interaction with touring destinations in our region? Does this help improve the economics of getting artists to tour in Australia?

- *As sighted in my testimony, Australia and New Zealand are significantly relied upon as anchors for touring in the Asia Pacific. The more markets and shows that can be played in Australia’s east (without relying on Perth), the more feasible touring to the region can be. Without Australian show dates, most artists cannot afford to break into the potentially lucrative Asian market.*
- *In the context of rehabilitating NSW live music economy, consideration should be given to supporting / funding and hosting events that encourage the global industry to invest in coming to Sydney and NSW (such as BigSound) and indeed supporting the grass roots music industry. Something that not only engages the business aspect, but also provides an opportunity for small venues and other industry bodies, such as community radio, to be engaged and derive income. Currently Big Sound and Music Matters (Singapore) are the region’s major business events. Every major record label is based in Sydney, where ironically the live music culture is weakest.*

3. Can you give us any more information on the guidance you have been given about the availability of Tumbalong Park as an outdoor venue?

We have refreshed our enquiry regarding Tumbalong Park, directly rather than via Sydney ICC who previously advised very clearly that the space wouldn’t be used for live events.

Whilst the response from the NSW Property Department was more politically correct, in my mind, there’s no way this space could currently be used for commercial live music.

- *The majority of weekends in 2019 & 2020 at Tumbalong are committed to the community festivals. We would need to submit a proposal to the events team well in advance (I imagine almost 2 years) in order to be considered.*
- *With a great deal of residents recently moving into Darling Tower and within close proximity to the park, it is my understanding it will be even harder to approve music events.*

Despite being encouraged to submit a proposal to the events team, my gut instinct was that we would likely be denied any music concerts – certainly ticketed events (as they had trouble running one in the past). They did however let me know that Acoustic acts suitable for picnics are more desirable to them.

Clearly this is another instance where local residents will remain influential as to the use of the space.