

What additional assistance could the state government provide to support community radio to back local music and musicians?

In addition to recognising the role community radio plays in supporting local music communities, we ask the state government consider the following:

Greater funding certainty to continue community radio's ability to create initiatives for artists and audience development

A recurring theme presented to us within local music communities is the emergence of a troubling narrative around the viability of contemporary music as an art form in New South Wales. We're often told that Sydney is "dead" or "over", and that if you want to make it as a musician you're best to move elsewhere. Despite perceived negativity, this presents an opportunity to invest in Sydney's passionate and resilient music communities. Whilst FBi Radio has been able to better support local artists through the creation of the development programs mentioned in the hearing (Tracks, Dance Class), there are still a limited number of these opportunities for young musicians in NSW. As a listener-funded community broadcaster, our capacity to continue such projects that strengthen relationships within music communities relies on funding support.

Support to ensure community broadcasting secures its future

We know the way people listen to radio is changing, which presents an ongoing challenge for the sector. Ensuring community radio's agility is crucial to the representation of New South Wales musicians across the country. Support from the state government to ensure community radio's future both in digital form and on a free-to-receive basis is welcomed. Any current operational support that has been secured is not recurring and is reliant on individual project-based application.