

Questions directed to Philip Crawford

1. In evidence to the committee Mr Crawford indicated that “I would like to make it clear that while we work with these agencies in the administration of the *Liquor Act*, the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority is an independent statutory authority. For the purposes of the music festival licensing scheme under Liquor Regulation 2018, this means that we have the benefit of advice from these agencies but we make decisions, independent of government, regarding which music festivals are required to apply for a music festival licence.”

No response required.

2. In relation to the Minister’s press release of the 23rd of February, why was this process not followed?

ILGA’s statutory responsibilities under the Regulation commenced on 28 February 2019. ILGA was not involved in the issuing of the media release.

3. Do you agree that the process was not followed in this instance?

Please refer to answer to question 2.

4. Prior to the announcement of the list on the 23rd of February, what input did ILGA have into the list of fourteen festivals that were required to apply for a music festival licence, if any?

None. The list was developed based on the advice of NSW Health and NSW Police and was not referred to ILGA until after the commencement of the amending Regulation.

5. When was ILGA first aware that these fourteen festivals would be required to apply for a music festival licence?

No music festival was directed by ILGA to apply for a music festival licence under the Regulation until April 2019. On 15 March 2019, following commencement of the Regulation and further to the provision of advice from NSW Health and NSW Police, ILGA wrote to 14 music festival operators indicating that it intended to consider whether their music festival would be more appropriately licensed under a music festival licence than another type of licence. In accordance with clause 35A(2) of the Regulation, all festival operators were given 21 days to make a written submission, with ILGA also holding a standalone music festivals meeting on 10 April 2019 to allow festival operators to also make oral submissions.

On 23 April 2019, ILGA determined that 11 of those music festivals should apply for a music festival licence as it considered that the risks associated with their event would be more appropriately dealt with under a music festival licence than another type of licence. This was the first time any music festival was required to apply for a music festival licence under the regulation. Since then, ILGA has determined that one further event should apply for a music festival licence.