



NSW Police Force

The Hon. Robert Borsak MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities
Parliament of NSW
budgetestimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair,

Subject: Clarification of response provided to a question for Budget Estimates

I write to advise of a clarification to an answer provided to a question taken on notice at the Budget Estimates hearing for Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities held on 12 March 2025.

The question was taken on notice at the hearing by Deputy Commissioner Peter Thurtell APM:

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Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: —there is the ability for police to continue to impose conditions, including exorbitant fees, which are killing music festivals in New South Wales. That is still in this law. Is that appeals process established, firstly?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Yes.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Have any music festivals appealed, over the summer, since that legislation was reformed?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Pete will know if there are any.

PETER THURTELL: Since the change of our policy in relation to user pays, which you have correctly pointed out, it does allow for appeals at a local level. However, I'd just need to point out that that's a formalisation of existing practices that have been around for many years; it has just been put into our documents. There have been 10 reviews of user pays across the State. Eight of those were successful. Four of those eight were for music festivals. Two of the four were successful. However, one of those was because of a reduction in the anticipated crowd numbers, so therefore less police were required.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: That's very useful. Thank you. Would you be able to table, on notice, the details of that in terms of which festivals they were?

PETER THURTELL: I've just got it written on a scrap piece of paper, but eventually I can, yes.

A written answer was provided to the question taken on notice on 8 April 2025 as follows:

ANSWER

I am advised:

To date, there have been ten (10) reviews of user pays across the state.

- The Newcastle Show (event on 28 February 2025 to 2 March 2025)
- Mullet Fest (event on 22 February 2025)
- Dreamstate (event on 8 February 2025)
- Women's International Cricket at SCG (event on 20 January 2025)

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- Juicy Festival (event on 18 January 2025)
- New Years Eve in the Park at Bathurst (event on 31 December 2024)
- Mode Festival 2024 (event on 12 December 2024)
- Subsonic Stroud Show (event on 29 November 2024 to 1 December 2024)
- Postie Ride (event on 27 October 2024)
- Ride for Cancer (unknown event date)

This should be amended to:

There have been no internal reviews conducted across the state regarding user pays arrangements in the context of resolving disputes about the proposed number of officers supplied or policing resources required.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Miller
Executive Director
Office of the Commissioner
1 August 2025