

**Submission  
No 16**

**INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mr Tim Hosking

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I am a musician and am passionate about live and recorded music. I have seen music bring communities together, provide artistic outlets for a range of people, boost self-esteem and confidence for people across a wide variety of backgrounds, ages and abilities, and provide a significant value-add to other events.

My local musical community is held together by local people - primarily musicians, but also photographers, radio announcers, venue managers, patrons of the arts and music – all dedicated to supporting a live music scene in this city. Much of the work is done by volunteers with very little financial return, if any. A few lucky ones make enough to work full-time, or make financial return from it for their business, such as hotels and music shops.

I feel there are three key ways that Governments can assist in keeping local music:

1) Assist venues: Support live music venues through noise restrictions and complaints, support venues to provide adequate physical performance spaces, keep offering grants to small music-featuring events to get them started and established, provide rental support for NFP/Profit NGOs putting on musical events.

2) Assist artists: continue to provide grants to worthy artists who are making a difference – either up-and-coming artists or those providing important cultural or social services like playing rural and regional locations, running musical workshops, performing to key target parts of the community, like youth.

3) Keep local music local: Keeping artists in place is a key part of improving culture and live music offerings over time throughout the State rather than just metropolitan areas. Regional touring grants and assisting with regional music events is very helpful and I'd encourage Governments to continue to do great work here. Programs such as the 'Live and local' program, as expanded to include regional areas, is very helpful.

My last comment is that it is really hard to gauge our progress or otherwise in a local music scene. While we continue to see consistent negligible results in terms of being played on commercial radio or growth in recorded music revenue, other indicators like patrons, facebook hits, number of venues do vary but seem to be difficult for community members to determine if we (the volunteer glue of the music scene) are actually changing anything, or not. If there were tools or ways Governments could assist in the tracking or monitoring of music that would be also very helpful, but is perhaps not as critical as the above.

Thanks for the opportunity to make a submission.

Cheers Tim Hosking, Dubbo