

**Submission
No 31**

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

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I had worked in the music industry in Newcastle for 31 years, since 1985, in places such as Fannys, The Castle, Jolly Roger, Crown & Anchor and the Kent, and have seen a lot of change over the years. My concern is that Newcastle was once The Place for live music, the old saying was "if you can make it in Newcastle you can make it anywhere" but now, live music is rapidly declining thanks to ridiculous noise laws. Surely Newcastle (and NSW) can learn something from Victoria here, if you build or buy a residence next to an established hotel/music venue, then you CAN NOT complain about the noise. I saw some fantastic acts over the years at Fannys, from Bay City Rollers to Cold Chisel. Then they built a motel and units across the road, which all but killed off live music at this venue. And this is happening right across the state.

Newcastle was live music in Australia for so long, INXS had a regular Thursday night in Newcastle, Cold Chisel would always kick off their tours in Newcastle, as did many great Australian bands, The Screaming Jets, Silverchair, Rabbit, Heroes, and the list goes on, all great Aussie bands who originated from Newcastle. Lets get some dedicated live music precincts happening. Dont let our once great live music scene die!

As for Lock out laws, the landscape of night life is very different now than it was in the 80's and 90's. Back then punters would be lining up from 7pm waiting for the doors of the Castle Tavern to open at 8pm. Now people dont come out til late. Publicans who pushed for the 5am late trading are the blame for this. There is no need for venues, except for those in Kings Cross etc, to be open past 3.

They created a generation of punters who didnt come out til 11pm. Drinking attitudes and drug use have also changed, ans as much as we dont want to discuss it, it needs to be recognised. In the 80's and 90's people drank bourbon and coke or vb/tooheys, had a line of speed to give them some extra energy then smoked a joint on the way home to wind down. Then, into the 2000's all the pre mix drinks and energy drinks (vodka/red bull etc) started to become popular, the young guys were all juiced up on steroids and that filthy ICE hit the street, a mixture for violence. Ecstasy, which was once a drug to enhance your sex life, became popular for the dance music crowd, and the manufactures of it started to make it with all sorts of poisons, to bet a bigger profit. It is all of these factors that need to be considered when reviewing Lock Out Laws, you cant stick your head in the sand and just blame alcohol. NSW should lead the way here, be innovative, look at what is happening for the crowd that now heads out each weekend, do some research, then use those findings to guide your practice for the regulation of licenced venues. One solution will not fit every city though. Finally, you cant have lock out laws apply to hotels at one end of a street but not to the hotels at the opposite end of the street, that is ridiculous. (Beaumont St Hamilton).

Please dont let our live music die, Melbourne is too far to drive to if i want to see a band!!!