

**Submission
No 90**

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

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Music in NSW is in crisis. I've managed a band for nine years and seen the knockout blow the lockout laws have delivered to emerging musicians in NSW. Before the laws, there were many smaller venues which were able to put on emerging bands in the early part of the evening and subsidise the loss they'd make on that with the late-night crowd. This has gone and with it, the ability of NSW to nurture up-and-coming talent. The established acts are fine. It's the future that's in trouble. On top of that, the majority of smaller venues and almost all the nightclubs have simply closed down, reducing the area within the lockout laws boundaries to a sort of East Berlin at night and punishing hundreds of thousands of law-abiding citizens who simply want to have a good time for the actions of a handful of idiots. Sydney and young musicians are already paying a terrible price for this short-sighted and heavy handed approach - and we'll all pay a price later when NSW falls behind the other States, attracts fewer tourists and produces less creative talent. The late-night economy is important to everyone - not just the people who attend.