

**Submission
No 112**

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

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The Sydney night time market is at a delicate point right now. It's on an international stage for many reasons but none of them are because of its amazing culture.

Being heavily involved in booking and working with music venues and small bars. It has always been an uphill struggle, not because of the venues themselves but because the city doesn't allow for venues to have freedom. No one, especially musicians and creatives want anyone to be hurt or put in danger, but statewide bans on the how and when we are allowed to drink demonstrates what New South Wales is trying to achieve. If NSW considers itself as a state deserving of being put on an international stage, then we should see the ministers and government looking across the oceans at what works at what doesn't when it comes to culture.

Politics and politicians are corrupt, looking back 4 years ago to when the lockout laws were brought in, they were implemented across the CBD, except for 2 places, the first being the Star Casino, and the second being the place that's going to have the second casino, Barangaroo. The state government approved the plan for the lockout laws without speaking with the people that know most about the industry, the people who live in the nightlife, bartenders, musicians, promoters, venue owners, booking agents and so on.

If anything is to be done to repair what damage has been done, one of a few things needs to happen.

- There must be government sponsored artist residencies, where artists are hired for the sole purpose of creating a body of work.

- Developers must be held accountable for building apartments in entertainment districts particularly when it leads to noise complaints. Even other states (Victoria) already do this to ensure that music venues are protected from legal mumbo-jumbo (i.e. a person complaining so a venue has to do dB volume checks)

- Government to actually put some of these things into action, and listen to the community that wishes to make Sydney vibrant.

- Red tape to be lifted for small bar licences, the government should encourage these places as they encourage responsible drinking.

- Venue lockouts and restrictions on serving hours must be taken off. If the casinos can serve alcohol whenever they choose, the same opportunity should be given to everyone. It's not like the casino hasn't had violent encounters, it's just that they deal with them in-house (as all places should)

There are so many people that want to make this state the coolest place on the planet, people who know far more than me, people who've been fighting for the revival of the music in NSW since Bob Carr brought pokies into pubs. It's been over 20 years now, so please will you give NSW creatives another chance. Make this state the safest, the most creative and the most forward-thinking when it comes to music.