

**Submission
No 124**

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

Name: Ms Sarah Cowan

Date received: 21 February 2018

I moved back to a rural area in 2011 to find the local music industry had descended into a "covers only" policy in all the clubs and most of the pubs. There were few other opportunities for playing music. To make things worse, I have only been performing my own original compositions for over 25 years.

A few years ago we went on the busking list at our local market and have played many market days to happy audiences, making decent money and selling more cds than at gigs. The market committee gives a nominal fee of \$50 on top of "earnings".

Recently the committee has implemented a new rule that all buskers "must play a high percentage of covers". My band is the only band who don't play a high percentage of covers. And so It would seem that the rule has been implemented for my band?

I have written to the committee who refuse to correspond with me and refuse to let me address the committee. I find this attack on original music abhorrent and downright frightening.

May I add that we are all well respected, proficient musicians who are polite, well rehearsed and highly entertaining. My award winning songs have been played by other people and I have had some of Australia's best musos play with me, not for money, simply because they enjoy the songs. I have recorded 5 cds.

It is hugely sad for me to see all local clubs inflict the "covers only" rule and even use an out of town booker to import cover musos when there are plenty here; meanwhile the plethora of amazing local songwriters have to leave town to scrape a gig in this climate. It is misguided to believe that the majority of punters wish to hear their old faves. Most of us are driving 3 hours just to find something fresh to listen to. I believe there is a monopoly which may be upheld by the local hoteliers assoc. I believe I am being targeted for disclusion as I am a strong person who speaks up. I am also a woman.