

Submission
No 122

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 21 February 2018

Partially
Confidential

As a full time and part time professional musician since 1994 in both NSW and other parts of the country, I have to say that I am distressed at the state of the live music scene in Sydney. I returned after 10 years living in the Northern Territory to find my peers, who were already 'doing it tough' having even more trouble trying to scrape together a living and even more disturbing to me, I am having trouble finding places to enjoy live music as a consumer, especially in the South West.

In my time as a working musician, from 1994 - 2007, I saw the decline in live music and from my experience it was down to 3 major factors.

1: the prevalence of gaming machines in hotels. Even though this should have created a more stable income stream for hotels, my experience showed that the space needed for gaming meant band rooms and live music spaces were sacrificed.

2: smoking restrictions. Obviously due to health reasons there is not much to be done about that.

3: noise issues. I personally dealt with the problem of noise in a venue I sat on the management committee of in Darwin for a number of years.

The biggest issue I see with noise comes from development. Specifically residential.

With the 'gentrification' of the older inner working class areas, the areas which so often house entertainment venues, more people are moving into these areas in much larger numbers than before. All too often when new residents arrive, they realise that the noise, whether it be live music, aircraft corridors, trains or general traffic or construction, and it seems to be that the pre existing entertainment venues are the ones to suffer. I would like to see more emphasis placed on prior occupancy. If major residential buildings are going into an area with pre existing entertainment venues, noise mitigation measures should be built in to these developments, not the other way around.

Sydney was once a city which placed high value on its cultural scene. It nurtured some of the most successful musical acts in the country for decades but I am afraid this side of Sydney is now virtually non existent.

Thank you for considering my thoughts and opinions.