

**Submission  
No 139**

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

**Name:** Mr Spencer Scott

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I have been working in the music industry, in some form or another, for around 8 years now. I'm a musician that has performed around 500 gigs; primarily performing original live music in local venues.

On top of that, I currently work as the entertainment coordinator for a live music venue in Newcastle; where we host original live music 3-5 nights a week across two rooms (150cap & 350cap).

In my experience, and in talking to other people in the music industry; I believe there are three things that need to change in order for NSW to have a vibrant music scene.

1) There needs to be a plan in place for Development Applications and Section 149s to place the responsibility for soundproofing apartments and houses on the developer. S149 certificates will require applicants to acknowledge that they live in a cultural zone where noise, and hours of operation will be an issue.

There are several venues in Newcastle that are currently watching apartment buildings go up next to their building, some that have been standing and housing live music for decades. It's simply unacceptable for people moving in to expect this to change, and legislation must be in place to prevent venues being shut down.

2) There needs to be government backed All Ages spaces available to the public. Newcastle in particular is currently suffering without a live music venue for underage punters and performers. Newcastle City Council shut down the Loft Youth Venue in 2013 - and the city has been struggling for a replacement without government backing ever since.

This has led to All Ages live music being held in venues that aren't fit to hold live music; failing safety requirements. This WILL continue to happen until council or government step in to lend a hand. A 17 year old doesn't have the finances or access to run a live music venue, yet they have no other options.

All Ages music venues breed people who attend live music. They're an incubator that creates not only passionate gig goers, but music industry professionals too. I would not be the person I am today without The Loft Youth Venue, and I know many other people from the Newcastle area who would say the same.

3) Any revisions or repeals to Newcastle's lockout laws would help. It's no secret that venues have struggled under these laws; feel free to ask the countless Sydney venues that have fallen under it's ruling.

Thanks.