

**Submission  
No 156**

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

**Organisation:** Committee for Sydney

**Date received:** 23 February 2018

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The Committee for Sydney welcomes the opportunity to respond to this submission.

The Committee recognises that, as well as cultural and social benefits, live music contributes significantly to the NSW economy. The Live Music Office estimates NSW is the largest contributor to the Australian live music industry at \$3,623m and 23,207 jobs. Government, private and education sector building stock that is under-utilised or in transition could also make a significant contribution to the cultural fabric of the city's independent dramatic arts.

The Committee recognises concerns that the live music on offer in Sydney can be limited, in some cases due to noise restrictions or lack of venues. In particular, we feel that more could be done in Sydney to encourage live music through temporary programming in public spaces and parks. We also recognise concern that the separate processes for liquor licensing and development approvals for live music venues can create uncertainty, as overlapping functions add greatly to cost and time involved in establishing and operating businesses.

We believe that with certain planning and policies, small-scale venues not in use at night could be utilised to host live music and arts. For example, a proposal presented to Sydney's Inner West Council in early 2017 proposed every type of property zoning, excluding residential, to be allowed to be converted into a small-scale arts venue without the need for a development application. Policy changes such as these would allow greater growth and diversity in the arts and live music sectors across Sydney precincts. In contrast, in 2016/17 the South Australian Government introduced a small arts venue category state variation to the National Construction Code as well as exempt development status for low impact entertainment.

We also note that interstate, the live music sector is supported by development funding: Victoria offers a \$12.2m Music Works package while Western Australia offers its \$3m Creative Music Fund. The establishment of a live music community benefit fund in NSW along the lines of the South Australian model is endorsed by the Live Music Office, City of Sydney Live Music and Performance Action Plan with in-principle support from Australian Hotels Association NSW.

Live music also has a key role in offering a diversity of social activities, particularly at night and helping to support the 24-hour economy in Greater Sydney. A vibrant live music scene also supports the branding of Sydney as a world-class cultural destination and helps to attract talented people to live and work in the city.