

**Submission
No 178**

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

Name: Mr Greg Butcher

Date received: 24 February 2018

☒What you do, and why you do it.

I am the conductor and artistic director of the Clarence Valley Orchestra & Chorus, a 75-80 piece ensemble that performs regularly in Grafton NSW. We attract over 900+ audience members at each concert, either attending in the large Movie Theatre - Saraton Theatre or performing to over 1500+ people at the annual Carols by Candlelight in an outside venue working with local Rotary Clubs. The cost to produce this enjoyment to the public is always an issue. We have had people to the status of Nicholas Hammond (original eldest boy actor from the movie The Sound of Music) to David Helfgott international pianist.

☒What works, what gives you hope about your local music community.

As an experienced music professional and retired RAAF Musician, the concerts work very well with the variety of musical genres the orchestra can perform. I also arrange and compose a lot of music for these concerts which are tailored to suit players from anywhere from 8 to 80 years old. This is not only an ensemble for very large audiences to enjoy, however it is also an educational ensemble where this age group can learn, share, experience and pass on knowledge to others, to which it is also actively taking care of the well-being of all participants involved.

☒What's not working right now / what are the challenges.

Challenges currently facing the ensemble are the cost of hiring the private Saraton theatre which is now in excess of \$7,000 per concert, not to mention the sound & lighting and insurance on top of this, just to mention a few other costing to produce each concert.

☒What issues concern you/ should be addressed.

Funding to help provide the continuation of these concerts and much music pleasure to people in rural areas. Possible funding for sound & lighting & insurance.

☒How they can help – what changes can they introduce to make it easier for you to do what you do.

Possible more subsidies or grants available to assist in the costs of producing these concerts being run in a private venue due to no other venues available.

☒What you're willing and able to do to assist them with change.

Supply costings to evaluate the amount of effort goes into producing such high quality performances with our ensemble. Please find orchestra web page below for quality of concerts we perform plus photos attached. <https://www.facebook.com/clarencevalleyorchestra/>