

**Submission
No 215**

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

Name: Mr Clinton Hoy

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What I do, and why I do it

I am a singer/songwriter living in Dubbo. I play solo and with my band One Proud Monkey. I am a fierce advocate for regional songwriters as I feel like there has always been the idea that to pursue original music one must move to the metropolitan areas and I don't believe this is necessarily so, even if the road is much harder from regional and remote areas. I want to build a touring circuit in regional NSW and build capacity amongst original musicians to have, and support others having, access to the knowledge, skills and opportunities to make this a reality.

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

My community has some very driven people who believe in original music. They invest their own time and money, negotiate with local venues and mentor up and coming musicians. There is a dedicated Facebook group and musicians who have some knowledge they readily share.

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

For each of the motivated and knowledgeable people there are factors more who can't see how to take the next step or don't have the means to pursue it. There is little to no support from our local media and despite having two commercial radio stations, an ABC station and a community radio station, local artists are rarely heard on the airwaves. Venues seem to think that original music is a risk and will defer to cover acts at almost every opportunity, even when a touring artist requests a local songwriter. Promotion in these circumstances is obviously a problem and the techniques and tactics that work a treat in metropolitan and coastal NSW aren't always effective in regional and remote areas.

What issues or concerns should be addressed?

Much of what I've addressed above relates to original music being perceived as lacking legitimacy. It would be great to have artists with credibility who started in regional and remote Australia advocate for country artists. I admit that I am biased but one of my biggest concerns is that so called "regional" tours often only visit coastal areas and never venture anywhere west of the Great Dividing Range, something that only contributes to the feeling that original music can't survive out here.

What changes can be introduced to make it easier?

I am hopeful for increased opportunity and knowledge exchange. Workshops are great but if it were accompanied by the chance to perform for industry professionals or with touring acts the impact would be so much greater. Having access to that network would be invaluable. It would be great to see a known band tour western towns picking up local acts along the way. My band is currently making use of a generous grant to tour these areas but we are not a known name and very much treading uncharted territory, we are taking local acts with us but we are still all unknown so much of the attendance has been due to curiosity rather than support at this stage. The return journey would be beneficial as well, bringing regional and remote acts to the metropolitan and coastal areas and allowing them to gain experience that could be brought back to their home towns would provide a great foundation for the growth of music out here.

I am already heavily involved and invested in my local music scene. I am willing and able to do almost anything requested of me by supporting agencies and if it is not within my personal capabilities then I am willing to learn or suggest someone who could help with what is required. A thriving regional and remote original music scene is something I have worked towards for the best part of twenty years and it feels like it has the possibility of coming together with the right guidance so I am happy to assist in any way.