

**Submission  
No 222**

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

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International research findings indicate that music activity, and the community's access thereto as participants and audience members, enhances social cohesion, cultural understanding and acceptance of diversity, and individual and group well-being. As a group recreation activity, music is unique in that unlike other arts-based and sporting activities, it is not impacted on, nor is participation barred by, physicality, mobility and/or cognitive capability. Everyone can 'music'. In addition to the cultural and social capital developed and facilitated by the existence of and engagement in music activity, there is substantial evidence of the economic benefit to communities that support and facilitate vibrant musical ecosystems.