

Submission
No 259

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Music is the magic of unlimited creative sound and needs to be supported by government. I have been a professional singer, always a music lover, am from a musical family background and these days I present a weekly radio program, which is based on the latest contemporary music from Australia and around the world. We need more centrally-located venues for live music in Sydney, when contemporary music lovers can enjoy seeing and hearing visiting and resident bands and artists. The loss of so many city hotel venues over the years has left Sydney without the wealth of live venues we used to have and particularly where we were able to find a big range of bands every Saturday afternoon. Compared with Los Angeles and other US cities, Sydney is now way behind and yet, with the right government support, we could become the hub of contemporary music in Australia. Government could assist this, with some creative and far-sighted thinking and planning. It is an industry that can make money for government. Instead, the NSW Government seems happier to bow to the power of the poker machine at the urging of hotel and club lobby groups. The future life of this city needs music, theatre and the arts. If it continues to lose musical entertainment and pander to the poker machine lobby to the detriment of our young up-and-coming musicians, Sydney will lose the people that can give this city the colour and vibrancy that will make it a place where people live and visit for the stimulation and range of activity they deserve. At the same time, the NSW Government must assist and stimulate the musical recording industry in Sydney if we are ever to compete and provide our musical artists with the incentives to stay and record here, rather than go to Nashville and Los Angeles, which is where everyone now goes.