

**Submission
No 282**

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

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Date received: 26 February 2018

I have worked as a professional musician since the early 90's and have now played thousands of gigs around the state (and beyond).

During this time I have seen many changes, some beyond the scope of what we can control, but other things that have hindered live music greatly.

I have seen several pubs and clubs with a vibrant music scene be crippled by people moving into an area with full knowledge of the existence of said venue and their activities who have then complained at every opportunity. And the lady has seemingly always been on their side! Certain venues in the Illawarra and South Coast of NSW have gone far beyond what is reasonable in an effort to keep the complainant happy, yet this has not been enough for some. How do they hold such sway over an already established business and music scene? Surely this is a skewed imbalance in the law and should be rectified as soon as possible. If an individual moves into an area where a music venue (or any other legitimate business already exists) they should simply be made to deal with the consequences of their decisions and not force others to comply.

Secondly, parking and loading gear in and out of a venue can be a nightmare. Social considerations for musicians and sound engineers needs to be established so that gear (sometimes very heavy and cumbersome gear) can be loaded or unloaded in a sensible and convenient manner from the venue. Attempting to carry a drum kit or have guitar amplifier that might weigh 50 kilos hundreds of metres due to parking or no stopping restrictions is short-sighted.

Responsible service of alcohol standards should be followed. Too many times I have seen inebriated individuals continue to consume alcohol and then turn nasty on other patrons, staff or musicians.

More incentives offered to venues to pursue opportunities to feature and promote live music should be explored and enacted upon. Music delivers a wide range of benefits both economically and socially and surely this is what we all want to see?

Scott B