

Submission  
No 217

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

**Organisation:** Southern Tablelands Arts (STARTS)

**Date received:** 27 February 2018

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Southern Tablelands Arts Inc is a Regional Arts Development Organisation that spans 7 local government areas including Goulburn Mulwaree, Hilltops, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Upper Lachlan, Wingecarribee Shire, Wollondilly and Yass Valley.

Our organisation supports a diverse range of art form activities including music.

There are no music specific venues in the region yet there is a wealth of music presentation across all music styles. There is a reliance of commercial clubs and community halls and some pubs as music venues. This means stepping stones to career development is extremely limited.

The region is home to internationally renowned musicians, composers, producers, singers, orchestras etc. While some of these artists perform within the region, there are no suitable venues to really showcase their musical talents and capabilities.

There are two regional conservatoria (based in Goulburn and Young) with The Goulburn Regional Conservatorium also looking to expand into Queanbeyan city. Primary and high schools across the region also undertake a mix of music education.

I believe there is little understanding at Councillor/Executive level of Council, commercial and NFP sectors in this region of the opportunity, capacity and benefits for music as part of the night time economy.

The night time economy is more limited in rural regions however this should not be a reason to overlook State Government working with rural regional Councils (economic development/events/tourism/arts & cultural development, planning rules & regs), local business and arts/music sectors regionally to strengthen capacity of music sector.

There is a need to ensure that with redevelopment/revitalisation of local country towns which is seeing new residential such as shop top developments, that there are suitable sound abatement measures required to ensure night life is not hampered by impinging unduly on residential amenity.

This region has extreme levels of socio-economic capacity and capability with a number of LGAs being in the bottom 30% of the SEIFA Index. This means very low incomes, poor educational outcomes and inter-generational disadvantage. Goulburn Regional Conservatorium has spent some years now working with one primary school in Goulburn to develop an in-school violin learning program across a 3 year period that has been benefiting students and their families across educational, school participation, student/parent engagement and contributing to wider community activities. There are no grants to support such an initiative. And while there is philanthropic support, one school is a drop in the bucket.

There has been policy work in Brisbane, South Australia, Western Australia and particularly Victoria to foster music including contemporary music development. Grants to support music are particularly limited in NSW. Perhaps the policy and funding work that has been done to support the film industry in NSW might provide some ideas to support.

It would be great to see opportunities for organisations such as I.C.E. based in Western Sydney being funded to expand their program to help build youth sector music and multi-art form performance between music/dance/film/digital with rural regional communities to build links with First Nations and young people of different cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

It would be great to see opportunities to expose young people in this region to band development including song writing, performance and recording opportunities.