

**Submission
No 357**

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

Name: Miss Kate Stroud

Date received: 27 February 2018

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Kate Stroud. I am a self employed Musician, Artist and Events Manager living in Lismore NSW. I work collaboratively with likeminded community members to establish accessible events that provide opportunity for local and touring artists to showcase their works, whilst providing safe and culturally enhancing options for community members to gather and celebrate this wonderful region. I am compelled to do this work as I love community, I believe it is key to a healthy and rewarding human existence. I have chosen this field as I am a 'maker' and facilitator of people gathering and events, I love watching people flourish as they undertake their creative journey whilst participating in activities that strengthen communities and offer a connection for future collaborations. I am currently working toward opening a live music cafe 'Dusty Attic' to do 'my part' to breathe a new life into this seemingly unsupported industry within our community.

In Lismore, offering consistent events that are financially accessible, is what gets people behind the arts. Allowing there to be space to facilitate local and upcoming artists is also a massive draw card. There is a huge community around the arts and creative practice fields, alas, there is few places to host this. I have hope for our music scene as in my 5 years of working in this area I have found that people will consistently attend and support if there is an inclusive and accessible option. Unfortunately we were greatly devastated by a massive natural disaster which flooded our town. Many businesses have suffered, one live music venue, the last remaining constant operational hotel closed its doors last week, due to having their insurance claim denied. Personally, the building that I have under-construction, destined for the music industry, took on 5 mtrs of water and has set us back over a year and a sum I would rather not think about. Recovery from the flood is currently our biggest challenge. We do however have a rather tenacious and strong stance to not let it defeat us, doing it on our own is terribly hard.

Realistically, we need financial support to be able to implement the infrastructure to create venues to support the arts. Regional towns such as Lismore, which don't have the tourism coastal draw card relies heavily on having vibrantly attractive cultural landscape to entice the younger demographic to invest their time and energy outside of the major cities. We need positive options (outside of pubs & clubs) that offer opportunity for inclusion to exist, which is also attractive to bigger touring names to want to add us to their east coast circuit.

I am going to see this project through, regardless of the support of the NSW government, however I would welcome any assistance to assist in growing the rural music industry.

THINGS THAT WOULD ASSIST IN HELPING OUR LOCAL INDUSTRY:

- Waving of local council fees,
- subsidy for existing and emerging businesses in rural areas,
- annual grants to go toward larger scale events,
- grants to go toward upgrading plant & equipment
- support for touring rural and internationally
- support for venues that are inclusive to underage participants
- recognition/support to help keep our night time economy alive

Thank you for taking the time to consider the above. I look forward to assisting in growing this industry and am grateful for any assistance you are able to offer.

Kind Regards,

Kate Stroud

