

**Submission  
No 361**

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

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I grew up playing music throughout high school and afterwards in a small band in Sydney. We played the Sutherland Shire Battle of the Bands and this initiative was huge for us. However, a significant lack of resources and general care for the live music scene has been strongly noted in Sydney. In combination with the lockout laws in particular, Sydney has become something of a laughing stock in the global community and sadly many musicians may be missing out on opportunities for development. I moved away from NSW for more than a year because the culture was so shocking for young musicians and music fans. Venues are being shut down left right and centre, decisions being made in favour of unreasonable residential complaints and to support property development in some areas.

Some of the popular concerns that could be addressed include:

- Significantly increased investment for the contemporary music sector (funding for artists, venues, and top-notch events)
- Support for music export
- A contemporary music plan for NSW with clearly identified priorities and strategies
- Significant support for all-ages activities in NSW – for young bands and young audiences
- Better regulation policies that support and foster a thriving live music scene across NSW (regional, metro and everything in between)
- Support and recognition for live music venues as cultural institutions and the backbones of our night-time economy
- Policies and initiatives that make festivals and venues safe and welcoming spaces for all
- Support for equal opportunity community music programs as well as programs to develop youth in the music scene and encourage this kind of positive social activity