

**Submission
No 245**

INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Lismore City Council

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To Whom it May Concern

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INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry into the music and arts economy in New South Wales.

Lismore City Council offers this response.

a) progress on the implementation of the Government response to the New South Wales Night-time economy roundtable action plan

Upon researching the Government response it was found to be very Sydney-centric with no mention of regional areas, i.e. Night-Time Economy Roundtable – Developing a safe, strong and vibrant night-time economy in Sydney¹.

Even though there is no doubt that there has been a reduction in crime in the Lismore CBD since the lock-out laws were introduced, the night-time economy has taken a hit. Three Lismore CBD licenced establishments have closed their doors in the last few years. A local trend has also seen a shift of people away from Lismore CBD towards the coast (Byron Bay) for their night-time activities where there are numerous licenced premises and an array of cultural venues.

Lismore City Council is working hard to facilitate networks within the creative industries to increase the cultural and creative offering in the Lismore CBD and surrounding villages. One such partnership was the successful Artstate event held in Lismore in November / December 2017, which re-ignited many public spaces contributing a significant night-time buzz over the three day event.

The NSW State Government should target further investment in regional areas where Artstate has been held. This would enhance the impact of the significant investment made by prolonging the vibrancy and community engagement that the activity created.

Night-time economies have also been heavily negatively impacted by a lack of growth in numbers of students in our local community. Lismore had been activity positioning itself to benefit from a growing student economy. Funding cuts to universities affects enrollments², and this has a significant negative impact on regional economies.

The NSW State Government should lobby the Federal Government to cease funding cuts to educational institutions.

¹ <https://www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/Pages/about-us/roundtable-meetings.aspx>

² <https://www.northernstar.com.au/news/scu-protests-higher-education-swindle/3210266/>

b) policies that could support a diverse and vibrant music and arts culture across New South Wales

The New South Wales State government should adapt the actions suggested through the Roundtable of relevance to regional areas and develop and implement policies that:

- result in more (not less) funding for cultural and educational institutions in regional areas
- cover public and products liability insurance under treasury managed fund for small community based events and activities that are low risk in nature such as farmers and local craft markets where buskers and entertainers are currently being turned away if they don't have their own insurances
- developing low/ no interest loans programs for creatives working with registered employment providers to initiate and run creative social enterprises

c) policies that could support the establishment and sustainability of permanent and temporary venue spaces for music and the arts

The NSW State Government should adopt policies that:

- cover public liability insurance under treasury managed fund for local halls where small community based events and activities that are low risk in nature are being held as many of these venues are struggling to remain viable due to the rising costs of insurance
- provide local councils with the resources to assess applications concerning events and tourism activities on working farms
- provide a leadership role in adopting zero waste, zero carbon emissions, zero environmental impact and provide educational resources to event organisers to increase recycling, composting and overall reduction of environmental impact
- encourage cross-silo departmental communications across state government portfolios covering local government, tourism, economic development, community development, access and inclusion, arts, education and health. This will go a long way to ensuring a whole of government approach to supporting regional communities to retain their unique character whilst growing their economies and building their capacity to support a healthy and well-connected community
- support Councils to negotiate the use of unused rail or other state owned buildings and infrastructure for the creative and other industries. In Lismore, the use of the South Lismore Railway Station as a creative space could go some way to addressing the lack of available spaces for creatives and would increase the creative and cultural offerings in our city.

d) policy and legislation in any other jurisdictions, and options for New South Wales including red tape reduction and funding options

The New South Wales State Government should:

- allocate base-line fixed annual funding per regional city for the equivalent of a full-time Cultural Development or Creative Industries Officer to progress local creative economies
- work with COAG to adopt a consistent definition throughout Australia as to what occupations and industries comprise the creative economy.

e) any other related matter

The New South Wales State Government should:

- enable funds allocated for families to engage their young people in sport and recreation activities (\$100 per child) to be used for creative activities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Council on 1300 87 83 87.

Yours faithfully

Acting Manager Integrated Planning