

Submission
No 229

INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Northern Rivers Conservatorium

Date received: 28 February 2018

28th February 2018.

To Whom It May Concern:

portfoliocommittee6@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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.

The Northern Rivers Conservatorium offers this response:

The Northern Rivers Conservatorium is one of 17 Regional Conservatoriums across NSW that provide quality music education and professional performance across the State. The network of Regional Conservatoriums represented by the Association of NSW Regional Conservatoriums and funded through the NSW Department of Education, is unique world-wide and has active partnerships with key arts organisations such as Create NSW, Regional Arts, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Australian World Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Musica Viva, Sydney Conservatorium of Music amongst others. The current reach of the statewide network is close to 30,000 students from all sectors of the community on annual basis.

The Northern Rivers Conservatorium delivers quality music education to more than 600 students of all ages, abilities and aspirations both on site in Lismore and in schools across the region. Tuition is offered across a wide range of instruments and genres in individual, ensemble, immersion and extension settings as well as access to professional artists through an annual visiting artists program.

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

As a Regional Conservatorium, the Northern Rivers Conservatorium is embedded in the community and fulfils a fundamental role in skills development, audience development, community cohesion, vibrancy and well-being

It is recommended that:

- an increase in core funding for the delivery of quality music education and performance would allow the Northern Rivers Conservatorium to attract and retain suitably qualified, experienced teaching and administrative staff.

- embedding the funding program for Regional Conservatoriums further within the Department of Education will strengthen the relationship between individual conservatoriums and the local schools which they serve.

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

the Northern Rivers Conservatorium currently owns and operates out of a heritage building in the Lismore CBD previously owned by the Department of Education. This building is a source of pride for the local community, however it has major ongoing maintenance issues.

The establishment of a permanent fund for all Regional Conservatoriums across NSW to ensure access to fit for purpose facilities would support participation across all sectors of the community in music education and performance. It is recommended that this funding program sit within the Regional NSW portfolio.

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

Regional Conservatoriums currently operate under a triennial funding program. It is recommended that a moving to a model of permanent long-term funding would allow for long range strategic planning to be undertaken.