

**Submission
No 233**

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

Organisation: Central Station Records

Date received: 28 February 2018

Hi NSW Parliament,

I head up the A&R department for Australia's longest running dance & electronic music label, Central Station Records. This year we celebrated 40 years in the music scene, for which Sydney has always been a home to the brand, so naturally I felt it was important to voice my thoughts on how we can improve our dwindling music scene here in NSW.

Of late there I've noticed Sydney not only has had a lot of music venues close down due to lock out laws, but a lot of industry folk and punters have left Sydney to move to Melbourne (and other cities), which is concerning to think that Sydney is no longer recognized as the music capitol of the nation.

I'd like to suggest a few ways in which I think our state government can help strengthen our local music scene and bring more focus back towards our city, not only on from a national level but also on the global stage.

- 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)
- Policies and initiatives that make festivals and venues safe and welcoming spaces for all, this should include on site drug testing.
- Programs for women and indigenous artists, regional artists, artists with disability, western Sydney artists and young artists
- Support for music export; both touring and promoting Australian music

In turn I believe these measures will also strengthen our music labels, publishing companies, collection agencies, touring & our radio industry; which currently has a very large quota of foreign music which overrides the commercial radio networks play listing.

I honestly believe we have one of the most exciting regions in the world when it comes to new music and artists that set the trends globally. Without the backing from the government here in NSW, I feel like we are missing a great opportunity to continue drawing attention and visitors back towards this country, and Sydney specifically!

I look forward to seeing positive changes and allowing me to continue being a proud Sydney local.

Thanks for listening,

Archie