

**Submission
No 351**

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

Name: Mr Chris Evans

Date received: 28 February 2018

Dear Committee Members,

As someone in their mid 20s who has enjoyed going out for as long as I can remember, it's clear to me that the live music scene in Sydney is in a state of rapid decline. Major live music venues and clubs seem to be closing on a monthly basis. This greatly concerns me as someone who believes that a thriving cultural scene is crucial to a happy populace, and to make this city an attractive one moving forward.

The lockout appears to be the principle cause of this downturn. The amount of closures seems to make clear to me that the live music scene requires later hours of operation than 1.30 or 2 before people are refused entry. Sydney has not adapted to the lockout - it's plainly doing damage to the night time economy.

I enjoy going to gigs well into the early hours of the morning, and believe a lot of genres, for example dance music, thrive in this period. I feel as though policy decisions of late have been made under the assumption that these types of musical scenes lack cultural value or don't deserve protection. However, I believe they are a major way of building community, and contribute to building a culture that is exportable, and that Australia can be proud of.

Therefore, it's important to me to see the government do more to protect the clubs, pubs and other venues where this music is heard.

I also feel that noise complaints should not be used to penalise pre-existing locations that are seeing new residential developments build in close proximity to them. The live music culture needs to be protected - new developments should be encouraged to work around the live music, whether through finding a different location or simply putting more effort into effective sound proofing. Development is being given such a large priority in Sydney right now that I'd like to see more effort to ensure live music venues get a fair shake. If this policy doesn't change, the natural outcome seems to be more and more areas becoming gentrified and squeezing out once-thriving cultural hubs. Live venues are going to be noisy - I think at a certain point this has to simply be accepted and worked around in order to preserve the culture.

Thanks for reading this submission.

-Chris Evans