

**Submission
No 354**

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

Name: Mr Grant Walmsley

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Music Venues NSW

Newcastle Region Focus

- I have been a professional musician since 1985. Over this 33-year period, fees for soloists, duos, bands - has actually fallen across the board. No regulation, no unions etc. I am a small business operator doing 100% of tasks including performing, learning and rehearsing large contents of material, writing – creating – developing/producing material, all marketing, graphic design, website creation and maintenance, interviews/press, recording, mixing, video, venue bookings and all management, all book keeping and administration as well as live sound and production. (Just one or two of these tasks were once full time occupations. Such is the life of someone like me who wishes to be a modern day musician). I receive no assistance via taxation breaks etc. no subsidies ... zero help or support. I represent an almost extinct sector of our society. This is a snap shot of a working artist/musician. I have been one of the country's most highly acclaimed bands, toured the world and have written over 100 songs including a hit singles, and have released over a dozen albums. Losing venues will surely sound the death knell to Party. My Great Uncle Jack Sinclair was the double bassist throughout the 30's, 40's, 50's and 60's in the house band of the since demolished Palais Royale on Hunter Street Newcastle, (now home to the southern hemispheres largest KFC).
- Now ... there are 3 dedicated live music venues in the Newcastle cbd region all of which are the heart of local music and musicians
- Becoming deserted by government and necessary protection for crucial part of this economically viable sector.
- Other precincts – Lambton, Hamilton, as well as several other key suburban areas including the Lakes areas and Bay areas
- Agent of change – existing success in Melbourne – model could be emulated – other cities including Berlin, New Orleans also have existing models – onus on new development to carry sound proofing etc
- Unregulated development with regard to protection of existing music venues