

**Submission  
No 396**

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

**Name:** Mr Simon Morel

**Date received:** 20 March 2018

---

Hon Paul Green MLC  
Committee Chair  
Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Planning and Environment

Hi Paul,

My name is Simon Morel and I'm a full time guitarist here in Sydney.

I teach, perform and work as a session guitarist.

I'm writing to share my experience of the live music scene here in Sydney.

While there are some new gigs in small bars over the last five years or so, I've found that

- it is harder and harder to draw audience
- venues are demanding more and more from musicians in terms of promo/bringing all of the crowd
- performance fees have stayed the same over a long time / some have declined.
- loading into venues is still very difficult (particularly in CBD/inner suburbs) with extreme parking restrictions often right outside venues. I've read about Adelaide 10 minute musician load in zones outside music venues. I'd love that here!

While I initially thought the lock outs would not really impact the live band scene, I now think they have impacted the overall numbers of people going out. I have found this particularly in areas such as Kings Cross.

10 years ago, Kings Cross was absolutely packed most nights, but recently I was booked a number of times at (the now defunct) Beat Bar and it was a ghost town. Even on Friday and Saturday nights.

It seems to me that the longer term impact of this kind of policy is that fewer venues will open with a focus on music and venue hopping. In turn, music culture in particular is damaged.

I welcome initiatives such as city of Sydney's grants for venues for sound proofing etc.

However, why can't we protect heritage music venues being impacted by 1/2 angry and newly arrived residents. If the venue has been there for years, people should really recognise that is what they are buying in to.

In a time of Spotify/streaming devaluing recorded music, we really need to show (reintroduce) Sydney the wonder of live music and how it gives the city character. I hope these comments will be taken on board.

Thanks for your time.

Cheers,  
Simon Morel