

**Submission
No 398**

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

Name: Ms Kate Lush

Date received: 20 March 2018

To the Hon Paul Green MLC
Committee Chair,

My name is Kate Lush & I have been working as an independent artist/teacher/composer/booking agent in the Blues & Roots scene in Sydney for the past 30 years.

I am an original artist who has released 4 albums. I am working on my 5th. My last album charted in the U.S. Blues charts (#11) & I make literally nothing, it also charted in the European charts. Streams are based on \$.0007 cents & I need 1 million streams to make \$14.30. No one is helping in Australia. I am utterly ignored by APRA (please see my recent message posted to Facebook below - it's very important regarding Blues & Roots music awards here in Aust).

I work in what is left of the small number of clubs, pubs, bowlo's & restaurants that support live music. I work extremely hard to keep up a balance of work during the day, on-line social media, developing my songwriting & singing craft & making sure things remain current so that I can be considered for festivals. It is soooooo tough to get gigs. I work so hard to just to get a gig that pays on average between \$450 & about \$600 for a Fri/Sat/Sun night & I have 5 people in my band. The musicians I have in my band are considered outstanding. One of my band members comes from East Gosford to play for me each time for \$150. For these guys to survive we all teach. We teach from dawn to dusk. We do weddings & events but most of that work has now trickled down to just a few specialised agencies. The people who book them now pay the musicians very little while they take the cream. Years ago many of the bands I knew just gave up & began working as Trio's, that's the only work you could get. When that happened I just had to pay to play. This is my world & my life & can't not do this, so I pay to play.

It is incredible to think this is the state of play when you look at the actual export market, but the reality is that so many incredible musicians just give up every day.

In my travels I have a lot to do with the booking agents, be it from festival organisers to restaurants & events. I hear all about the going rates, the various acts, I see who is going to which shows & generally how the venues are surviving or not surviving. Councils do nothing to reinvigorate. They put difficult obstacles in front of everybody concerned, they strangle the people trying build a business that includes music. The ones that have begun to act begin to see their areas flourish in every way! Look at Melbourne & SA - Sydney is a TOTAL EMBARRASSMENT. All businesses do better where music & the arts are able to flourish. It is widely known that whole areas begin to grow & communities come together when the arts are supported.

Re: APRA's Blues & Roots award - the same 8 or so bands have been awarded this award in the last 6 years it has been running - It is absolutely heart breaking & disgusting as it comes from the body that supposedly supports us.

*** (This is an extremely Important recent Facebook post)

Hmmm... what's on my mind.. I think APRA's Music Awards may need a new category for their Blues & Roots award.... called Alt Pop Folk/Country/Roots! Maybe that way this country's actual Blues & Root's artist might be included. Don't get me wrong, Tash, Busby (and all that were awarded) are seriously incredible & are kinda Blues & Roots (maybe Tash more so), as is Bernard Fanning acoustic songs (kinda) & I do love them, they are in my purchased downloads, but UHG we so need better recognition & commercial airplay in this country for Blues & Roots artists (Europe & U.S are falling over themselves for, and do celebrate great Blues & Roots music). They need a way to be commercially accepted so they can also be celebrated here for the amazing artists they are. These artists are out working the festivals & clubs. They bring new music into our world all the time!! Their acts are so good that they get invited to do showcases & festivals & tour internationally. What about Cass Eager, Liza Ohlback, Alison Penney, Jeff Lang, Backsliders, Rick Melick, Mitchell Anderson, Shane Pacey, Simon Kinny-Lewis, Reg Mombassa, Lloyd Spiegel, The New South, Mary Jane Guiney, Stiff Gins, Hat Fitz & Cara, Owen Campbell Band, Blues Arcadia, PJ O'Brien, The Tesky Brothers, Christina Crofts, Dave Hole, James Southwell, Matt Hanley, Johnny Devilseed, Lachy Doley as well as Clayton Doley ... anyway, sorry for all those gazillion other acts I haven't included in ACT, VIC, up North & in SA & Tassie... there should of course many many more artists noted and celebrated here

(please do add) and our very own APRA to be supporting by finding a way (non commercial perhaps) for them to be included in these awards..... Sign... I'm alright now

I truly hope that you do something. People are so fed up.

Feel free to contact me any time for any further information.

Yours Sincerely
Kate Lush