

**Submission  
No 402**

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

**Name:** Mr Stewart Wauchop

**Date received:** 20 March 2018

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Dear sir,

My name is Stewart Wauchop, I am a Director of Jazz and Blues Downunder as well as being a musician/songwriter. I book artists for Blues and Jazz festivals and have been doing so for 27 years. It seems that there are now more festivals than there were some years ago, but fewer good venues for musicians to play and therefore fewer small gigs. These venues and gigs are important because they allow local artists to play locally enriching their local culture, and simultaneously keep their costs low whilst building their repertoire, skills and fan base. It seems that where hotels and clubs had live artists in the past they derive so much revenue from gambling machines, that they do not consider taking the trouble to stage live music - everyone loses out. The Government is limiting gambling machines to the current level, but this seems far too little - hopefully not too late. Gambling is a huge problem in NSW, and it's not only the addicted gamblers with the problem - the government derives so much income from it, as well as the hoteliers and club owners, that they are all addicted. A reduction in gambling outlets would encourage live performance to return and wean gamblers, venue owners and government off the revenue.

Sincerely Stewart Wauchop