

Supplementary
Submission
No 420a

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

Organisation: Illawarra Folk Festival

Date Received: 2 July 2018

**DIFFICULTIES IN APPLYING FOR A LIQUOR LICENCE FOR EVENTS SUCH AS
THE ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL**

I, Graeme Morrison, am a Solicitor practising in Wollongong. I have also been the Licensee for the Illawarra Folk Club for the past 16 or 17 years.

As such, I have to apply every year for a liquor licence on the premises where the Illawarra Folk Festival is held, despite there being no change in circumstance.

As we also run a Folk Festival called "Folk by the Sea", I have to make two (2) applications per year and have done so for the last five (5) years.

The application is becoming more and more complicated and more and more convoluted. Our most recent application for Folk by the Sea is an 18 page document.

It involves many hours of preparation in gathering material to satisfy the requirements of the Department of Industry, Liquor & Gaming.

For the Illawarra Folk Festival, I then have to send the Application to the Police Department and to Wollongong City Council. I have to wait for their recommendation and comments, and I then have to have a comprehensive Management Plan for the consumption of alcohol.

The writer is well aware that safety requirements have to be taken into consideration with the sale of alcohol. All our staff have Responsible Service of Alcohol and we strictly police the laws concerning the service of alcohol, such as non-service to intoxicated people, provision of chilled water, not serving under age persons.

More and more encroachment has been coming into the Application as to where we can sell alcohol, and what type of alcohol we can sell.

Our hours are becoming more and more restricted in selling alcohol.

I have found that for other events, such as the Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival, even the types of alcohol that can be sold is also strictly policed. Nobody can understand why you are allowed to sell full strength cider and wine, but only mid strength beer.

It is as if the Department is of the belief that Festivals such as the Illawarra Folk Festival and Folk by the Sea are unrestrained parties.

The provision of alcohol at these events is to add to the enjoyment of the Festival. It is not the main reason the Festivals are held. The main reason the Festivals are held is because people enjoy folk music.

It is also a concern that the staffing of the relevant Department appears to be such that the staff become overwhelmed with Applications and it is often only just before the Festival starts, that permission is granted to sell alcohol. This is really unsatisfactory in the current climate, in that for the Illawarra Folk Festival, equipment has to be ordered, alcohol has to be purchased and cannot be done until the licence is guaranteed. There should be some form

of provision that past performance or records make it easier to obtain the necessary consents to sell alcohol.

In the time that I have been a Licensee, there have been three (3) people stopped from service due to their intoxication. None of those persons were served to the state of intoxication at our bar, but purchased alcohol or drank alcohol from other sources prior to arriving. At all of our festivals we have adequate security guards who also police any liquor licencing laws.

It is the writer's belief that should a successful festival be run, then there should be a minimum requirement to obtain the necessary liquor licence for the following festivals.