

Submission  
No 429

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

**Name:** Ms Rhiannon Atkinson-Howatt

**Date Received:** 28 September 2018

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Dear Committee,

I'd like to make a submission to the inquiry into the music and arts economy.

My name is Rhiannon and I am a musician going under the moniker, Merpire.

I grew up in Sydney and recently moved to Melbourne to further my music career as trying to develop it in Sydney seemed to be proving more difficult as time went on. At my level, it was difficult to find appropriately sized venues to match the size of my fan base that weren't going to charge a lot for hire. This is just the half of it.

In the 9 months I have been in Melbourne, I have accomplished more goals and established myself better as a musician than the 10 years I was a practising, professional musician in Sydney. There is way more importance and respect placed in the arts in Melbourne based on my personal situation as well as the community I have become a part of here.

Sydney's music scene is suffering and has been for quite some time. I receive countless emails from musicians, managers and booking agents based in all Australian states asking for my advice on where to play in Sydney and it is very sad that I cannot suggest more places than they already reach out to.

Sydney is thriving with musicians who are ready to further their careers, with music organisers and music industry professionals, passionate about the Sydney music scene and the Sydney public are desperate to be around it.

Things must change. Now.

Thank you,

Rhiannon Atkinson-Howatt