

Submission  
No 437

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

**Organisation:** Limelight Arts Media

**Date Received:** 28 September 2018

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**Attention:**

Hon. Paul Green MLC and Committee Members,  
Legislative Council Portfolio No. 6 – Planning and Environment  
NSW Legislative Council  
Parliament House, Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

**Regarding:** Inquiry into the music and arts economy in New South Wales

Limelight Arts Media Pty Ltd - Publishers of *Limelight* Magazine is grateful for the opportunity to make a submission to the Legislation Council, Portfolio Committee No. 6 - Planning and Environment (Committee) in response to the inquiry into the music and arts economy in New South Wales (Inquiry).

*Limelight* is an Australian monthly classical music and arts magazine and website. It has a unique place in Australia's arts scene, and is recognised as the journal of record in classical orchestral and vocal music, as well as providing extensive coverage of related art forms. *Limelight* publishes reviews, news, interviews, artist profiles, event and listening guides through its digital offerings and via the 11 printed issues of the magazine each year.

Founded in January 1976, the magazine was originally published under the name ABC Radio 24 Hours, or simply 24 Hours, and relaunched as *Limelight* in June 2003. The magazine was originally published by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's classical music radio station, ABC Classic FM, and existed primarily to provide programme details for the station's listeners. The ABC no longer programs its music in advance, but the magazine still includes concert highlights from ABC Classic FM. Independent, in-depth and intelligent. *Limelight* offers Australia's best coverage of classical music, opera, theatre, dance and visual art from at home and abroad. The staff, contributors and owners of *Limelight* are passionately committed to maintaining the excellent quality and reputation of the magazine and providing in-depth, intelligent and independent coverage of music and the performing arts across Australia.

Terms of Reference That Portfolio Committee No. 6, Planning and Environment, inquire into and report on the music and arts economy in New South Wales, including regional New South Wales, and in particular:

- (a) progress on the implementation of the Government response to the New South Wales Night-Time Economy Roundtable Action Plan 1
- (b) policies that could support a diverse and vibrant music and arts culture across New South Wales
- (c) policies that could support the establishment and sustainability of permanent and temporary venue spaces for music and for the arts (d) policy and

legislation in other jurisdictions, and options for New South Wales including red tape reduction and funding options, and  
(d) any other related matter

## Observations/Recommendations

- Music and arts activity cannot be separated from the wider remit of the cultural sector and therefore should not be addressed in isolation. Currently there are no state cultural policies providing cohesive, integrated responses to the challenges facing the creative industries, arts and wider cultural sector.
- Support for arts-based mass participation programs to encourage participation and raise the status of the arts within the general public. Examples of such programs include *Make Music Day* which piloted in Australia in 2018 and Music Australia's *Music: Count Us In* program which is Australia's largest school initiative. This program culminates in the National Celebration Day when more than half a million students sing the same song, on the same day, at the same time. Both of these programs are free and accessible to anyone who wants to take part and encourage community music making.
- Establishing a Music Industry Hub, Providing the sector with a building/precinct where peak bodies and private/commercial enterprises can be situated would enhance the capacity for the sector to collaborate and innovate. Current successful examples in Australia include the St Pauls Creative Centre in South Australia. There are many more successful models which can be looked to outside of the arts within the technology sector and the rise of technology parks as viable model worth of consideration.
- Invest in funding programs that supports the creation of new works both on a large and small scale. A middle ground needs to be reached that both supports and acknowledges the enormous contribution that the Major Performing Arts companies make, and the levels of support required to allow these companies to flourish, produce works and provide invaluable education programs. Whilst also providing funding pathways that support and nurture the small to medium sector to gain the stability they need in order to flourish and make brave artistic choices.
- Reinstate funding for peak bodies whose work focuses on fostering a thriving industry from their separate specialist areas, ensuring that there is the ability for the arts to invest in artist, audience and industry development.
- Consideration of a policy that would make all state funding contingent upon on the payment of artists' fees, with minimums set out in a code of practice.

- Invest in the growth and renewal of small-medium sized performance spaces that can be made available for all artists to hire.
- Support for collaborative programs that expand into multi artforms, which expand the marketing and audience share for events and promote innovation, especially in the development of programs that reach outside into greater Sydney area and into regional centres across the state.

Limelight Arts Media Pty Ltd thanks the Committee for the opportunity to make this submission to the Inquiry.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of any further assistance

Sincerely,

Cara Anderson  
General Manager

28 September 2018