Submission No 17

## INQUIRY INTO LIQUOR AMENDMENT (MUSIC FESTIVALS) REGULATION 2019 AND GAMING AND LIQUOR ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT (MUSIC FESTIVALS) REGULATION 2019

Organisation: FBi Radio

Date Received: 4 July 2019



FBi Radio | PO Box 1962, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012 (02) 8332 2900 | info@fbiradio.com | fbiradio.com

04 July 2019

To The Regulation Committee,

## RE: LIQUOR AMENDMENT (MUSIC FESTIVALS) REGULATION 2019 AND THE GAMING AND LIQUOR ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT (MUSIC FESTIVALS) REGULATION 2019

Thank you for opportunity to contribute to this inquiry. FBi Radio is an independent, not-for-profit community broadcaster and is a unique highlight of the Sydney landscape as the only radio station dedicated to the emerging music, arts and culture of Sydney. Our mission is to shape and amplify independent culture to a broad audience. Through programming, promotion and artist development, we contribute to the growth of the Australian music industry.

As the only radio station dedicated to the emerging music, arts and culture of Sydney, FBi Radio plays 50% Australian music, with half of that from Sydney, and provides a platform for musicians, artists and creators to reach broad audiences.

Beyond broadcast, FBi Radio has developed a range development programs to conitrubte to the New South Wales music and arts economy. This includes Dance Class, a mentoring and training initiative designed to encourage greater participation of young women in electronic music, as well as Tracks, a professional development program and live music showcase building artists and contemporary music audiences in Western Sydney. The annual FBi Sydney Music, Arts & Culture Awards exist to recognise and celebrate emerging local talent, putting Sydney artists, musicians, curators and venues, many in early stages of their career, in front of FBi Radio's broad audience.

Dozens of Australian artists who received their very first airplay on FBi Radio have gone on to play Australia's leading festivals across the country, both in the early stages and again in more established phases of their careers – including The Vines, Wolfmother, The Presets and The Preatures. Artists who have been involved in FBi's previously-mentioned initiatives have also gone on to do the same – including Flume, Sampa The Great, Lil Spacely and more at FOMO Festival, Splendour In The Grass, Falls Festival and St Jerome's Laneway Festival. The performance opportunities that are created by viable music festivals are crucial to the sustainability of the live music industry. Musicians and performers, production crews and festival staff face employment and income uncertainty as a result of unbalanced policy.

FBi Radio's programming features exclusive content created with touring national and international artists, an opportunity which relies on the Festival industry's ability to bring large national and international acts to Australia, and more specifically to Sydney. These interviews, mixes and live performances are an integral part of the station's content strategy and are deeply valued by FBi Radio's



FBi Radio | PO Box 1962, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012 (02) 8332 2900 | info@fbiradio.com | fbiradio.com

audience of over half a million listeners per month. A vibrant festival industry is one that balances tensions between culture and regulation, managing to maintain space for this cultural and social activity and engagement.

These are only a few of opportunities at risk under regulation implemented without meaningful consultation. FBi Radio supports the The Australian Festival Association's calls for the development of a more workable and sensible regulatory approach to safety at festivals. Music Festivals are an important driver for cultural participation, and their future will be enhanced by constructive collaboration between Government and industry.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this inquiry. If you'd like any more information please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Regards,

Nikki Brogan Managing Director FBi Radio