

Submission
No 23

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

Organisation: Chugg Entertainment Pty Ltd

Date Received: 5 July 2019



5 July 2019

Legislative Council Regulation Committee
NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Committee

Inquiry into Liquor Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019 and Gaming and Liquor Administration Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019

Chugg Entertainment would like to thank the Parliament for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry into Liquor Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019 and Gaming and Liquor Administration Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019.

Chugg Entertainment is an Australian based, globally operating entertainment business with a focus on promoting music festivals and special events, and touring international artists throughout Australia, New Zealand and Asia. Chugg Entertainment co-promotes major music festivals in Australia and abroad, including St Jerome's Laneway Festival across seven markets in three countries and CMC Rocks; Australia's premiere country music festival.

As you are no doubt aware, Live Performance Australia's 2017 National Ticket Music Ticket Attendance and Revenue Report provides the following statistics:

- Festivals attracted almost 400,000 people to attend a contemporary music festival in NSW.
- Festivals in NSW contributed \$55 million Live Performance ticket sales revenue, the third highest after contemporary music concerts and theatre.
- For the first time since 2010, the live performance revenue share for NSW decreased 4.4% down from 37.1% in 2016 to 32.7% in 2017 (Source: *Live Performance Australia. (2018). Ticket Attendance and Revenue Report 2017. Ernst & Young p9*).

From an industry perspective, NSW's serious decline in live performance revenue is of serious concern. To effectively present a promoter with more hurdles to bringing festivals to NSW seems disingenuous. In particular, the proposed legislative amendments appear to be over-reaching and unfocussed. Some of our concerns are:

- A liquor licence does not address the initial drug-related health concerns which were the driving factor for change.
- Recent changes to festival regulation may see NSW in a steeper decline behind the other Australian states and territories in its share of live performance revenue.
- The regulatory burden of operating festivals in NSW may drive some organisers across state lines.
- The live entertainment industry were inadequately consulted during the initial process.
- The changes to industry were rushed, with little regard to the long-standing industry business model.

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Our strongest recommendations, which we feel will not only halt the steep decline but may work to sustain growth across festivals and the live music industry in NSW include the following:

- The proposed Music Festival Regulations are disallowed.
- Health risks at music festivals are addressed with a well-researched and substantiated health-based approach.
- A regulatory roundtable is undertaken with the Australian Festival Association to ensure future regulatory changes are appropriately consulted across the industry and implemented.
- Invest in evidence-based Harm Reduction services.

We are members of the industry peak body, Australian Festival Association and support its views which are developed and presented in consultation with us.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Chairman
Chugg Entertainment Pty Ltd