

Submission
No 32

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

Organisation: The Hills Are Alive Group

Date Received: 5 July 2019



Friday 5th 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

Red Hill Entertainment Pty Ltd 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.

- *According to Live Performance Australia's National Ticket Music Ticket Attendance and Revenue Report 2017*
 - *Festivals attracted almost 400,000 people to attend a contemporary music festival in NSW*
 - *Festivals in NSW contributed the third highest Live Performance ticket sales revenue (\$55 million) after contemporary music concerts and theatre*
 - *For the first time since 2010, the live performance revenue share for NSW decreased from 37.1% in 2016 to 32.7% in 2017.¹*

Concerns surrounding Liquor Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019 and Gaming and Liquor Administration Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019.

- A liquor licence does not address the initial drug-related health concerns
- Recent changes to festival regulation may see NSW slip further behind the other Australian States and Territories
- Regulatory burden of operating festivals may drive some organisers across state lines
- Industry were inadequately consulted during this process
- Changes to industry were rushed, with little regard to the industry business model

As an entertainment company, we would like to see the following recommendations considered.

- Disallow the Music Festival Regulations
- Address health risks at music festivals with a health-based approach
- Adopt a regulatory roundtable with industry peak body the Australian Festival Association, to ensure future regulatory changes are appropriately consulted and implemented
- Invest in evidence-based Harm Reduction services

We strongly believe that establishing a Regulatory Roundtable for Festivals in NSW including industry peak body the AFA would be beneficial for all involved. More funding is needed to support and build Peer-based Harm Reduction Services. Finally, we need to come together by involving health, festival and drug experts to develop pill-testing trials at permanent and festival-based locations

In order to move forward progressively, it's imperative that the industry and government come together to consult on issues and collaborate, creating resolutions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Aidan McLaren | The Hills Are Alive Group
Senior Artist Manager & Festival Director

¹ Live Performance Australia. (2018). Ticket Attendance and Revenue Report 2017. Ernst & Young. p. 9