

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

Organisation: Mothership Events

Date Received: 5 July 2019

Dear Sir / Madam:

The music festival policy in its principle and strategy is something that I do not oppose. However, the administration and use of the policy pre-election as a vote collection strategy was obvious and detrimental to the purpose of the policy, and, companies in the industry that are innovative in their management practices. I consider my company and colleagues to be in that category.

The policy and its implementation has been rushed and policies what is a health and social issue into a conversation about law enforcement and archaic 'prohibition' styled attitudes. This has only meant that an existing industry that has proven economic, social and cultural benefits has now become one that has lost consumer confidence. It has far reaching impacts into many facets of business including insurance, sponsorship, talent and venue procurement to name a few.

In saying that, it must be noted that many 'good operators' were tarred with a 'dodgy operators' brush via no consultation and understanding of the industry and practices between the many different operators within.

As such, there has been legislative shifts in governance that has shifted away powers from the immediate operational stakeholder agencies to regional agency representatives who are not aware of the 'boots on ground' knowledge of these events. We have had adverse operational impacts to policing, state health and ambulance operations, that have posed significant risks to the events recently run.

The policies and guidelines needs to be reviewed with professional industry consultation to be taken place, where an understanding of the event genre, socio - economic factors, demographics and company professional historical records needs to be at the forefront of assessment and policy engagement.

I acknowledge that consultation has begun to improve and has been engaged, but again, I stress that there is a vast communication and knowledge gap between organisations such as ILGA, NSW Police, NSW Health and NSW Ambulance in terms of policy, license assessment and actual event execution on the ground.

We are seeking for this existing policy framework to be reviewed so that our events, are removed from 'dodgy operator list' as we feel they have been grossly misrepresented in recent situations. The events themselves have proven over history to be run with bench marking stakeholder engagement, support, and the statistics to prove it.

We also would like to engage a direct path of engagement and liaison with your office. Such consultation will enable such issues of misinterpretation are mitigated and discussed in an environment that is measured, informed, and, free from political agenda.

The public shaming and media listing without our prior knowledge or consultation, has had effect on our business and event reputations with long reaching negative impacts to consumer confident in our festival brands and company.

ILGA PRESENTATION and AGENDA I have attached a presentation & agenda that was submitted to the ILGA Board in April 2019, that outlined issues of the NSW Govt Festival Shame list and actual mismanagement of this policy for political gain pre-election in an attempt to remove such festivals from such a listing. The agenda and presentation shows actual fact about our events, rather than government media representation. Its an exercise on how policy on the run can lead to business downturn.

We would like to find an informed and factual resolution to the treatment of our businesses via engagement with the Music Festival Policy's review, alongside the agencies that govern it directly.

Kind Regards,
Justin Nyker
MOTHERSHIP EVENTS