

Submission
No 49

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

Organisation: Live Nation Australasia

Date Received: 16 July 2019

15 July 2019

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

By email: regulationcommittee@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair

Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Liquor Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019 and the Gaming and Liquor Administration Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019

Live Nation Entertainment (Live Nation Australasia which encompasses Secret Sounds, a division of Live Nation Australasia) welcomes the opportunity to comment on NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Liquor Amendment (Music Festival) Regulation 2019 and the Gaming and Liquor Administration Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019.

Our views are outlined in our submission below for consideration.

Live Nation Entertainment is the world's leading live entertainment company producing 35,000 concerts, touring over 4,000 artists and operating 200+ venues across 41 countries in 2018. Listed on the NYSE, Live Nation Entertainment is a Fortune 400 company and the parent company for both Live Nation Australasia and Ticketmaster Australia and New Zealand.

Live Nation stages over 100 festivals globally including the biggest festival brands such as Lollapalooza (US, Sweden & Germany), Electric Daisy Carnival (US), Rock In Rio (South America), Creamfields (UK & China), Isle of Wight, Reading and Leeds and Download (all UK).

In Australia, Live Nation entered into a joint venture partnership with Secret Sounds in 2016. Secret Sounds sees the production of leading Australian festivals including Splendour in the Grass (Byron Bay), Download (now in Melbourne in Sydney) and Falls Festival in four locations across Australia: Lorne (VIC), Byron Bay (NSW), Fremantle (WA) and Marion Bay (TAS).

In terms of venues, Live Nation operates in excess of 200 music venues globally, of which the majority are in the US and Europe, and over the past few years Live Nation has embarked on a proactive expansion into the Asia Pacific region, with a focus on Australia and New Zealand.

As a key global player in the music and festival industry we welcome this opportunity to input into the inquiry for the Liquor Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019 and the Gaming and Liquor Administration Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019.

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Live Nation is pleased that the Committee is undertaking consultation on both Liquor, and Gaming and Liquor Amendments, and strongly support their disallowance in line with the submissions of both Live Performance Australia (LPA) and the Australian Festival Association (AFA).

For Live Nation and Government the safety of fans, consumers and artists is a priority. We stand ready and eager to work with Government to consider if any additional measures would serve our mutual purpose.

The current regulatory framework is mandated to regulate liquor and gaming without a track record for the economics of music festivals. The regulations were introduced in March without a process of consultation with industry.

We agree with Live Performance Australia's submission and position that these regulations may increase the relative cost of music festivals in NSW for both event organisers and event patrons. They run the risk of placing NSW at a competitive disadvantage in fostering live music and cultural innovation compared to other destinations in Australia and overseas.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide a submission and would be pleased to meet with your officials to discuss how best to progress this issue and deliver effective and efficient regulations serving the market and the consumer/fan.

Should you wish to discuss these issues further, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Field
Chief Executive Officer
Live Nation Australasia