

Submission
No 51

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

Organisation: Club Music Advisory Group

Date Received: 23 July 2019

The Hon Mick Veitch, MLC
Committee Chair
Regulation Committee
Parliament House, Macquarie Street,
Sydney NSW 2000.

RE: Inquiry into the Liquor Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019 and the Gaming and Liquor Administration Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019.

CMAG acknowledges the terms of reference for the inquiry, and appreciates the opportunity to provide our contribution, and support our members and our greater electronic music community.

The Club Music Advisory Group (CMAG) is an independent collective of people working within the electronic music industry. It meets with APRA AMCOS three to four times a year to discuss and advise on a range of issues, mainly APRA AMCOS distribution practices of music licence income from nightclubs and from music festivals that effect that sector. CMAG has been in operation since 2013 and is chaired by DJ, producer, composer and APRA Ambassador John Ferris. The APRA AMCOS CMAG lead is Frank Rodi, Innovation & Electronic Music Specialist. To qualify for CMAG membership, members must have a connection to APRA AMCOS either as a writer or publisher member, or as a manager, lawyer or other industry professional working with an APRA AMCOS member. Currently there are nineteen industry reps on CMAG, with the Chair responsible for inviting and confirming new members or removing non-active members.

The current members includes: Ben Suthers (writer, producer, Inertia Operations), Tim McGee (120 Publishing/TMRW Group), Simon Lewicki (songwriter, producer, DJ APRA Ambassador), Frank Cotela (One Love Publishing), Anthony Colombi (artist manager), Karen Hamilton (120 Publishing), Amba Shephard (singer, songwriter, APRA Ambassador), Keiran Dole (artist manager), Rob Scott (Source Music Publishing), Marcus Walkom (Media Arts Lawyer), Arwen Curson (Universal Music Publishing ANZ), Matt Nugent (writer, producer, DJ), Tom Howell (writer, producer, DJ), Adam Stivala (writer, producer, DJ), Ant Celestino (writer, producer, DJ), Jane Slings (artist manager), John Wardle (Live Music Office).

The electronic music / dance scene is recognised as a major part of the music industry. Published in May 2019, The IMS Business Report 2019 estimates the value of the global electronic music industry 2018/19 to be \$7.2bn (USD). The 2019 IFPI Global Music Report ranks Dance as the World's 3rd most popular genre; with an annual global consumer base estimated at 1.5 billion people.

The introductions of music festivals licensing in 2019 has had a very serious impact on the electronic music scene in NSW already, with a series of major events for our industry being discontinued.

Our industry was given very little time to prepare for the new licensing, which came together very quickly and without consultation on the detail.

We fundamentally recognise the need for music festivals to be safe and well run. But to achieve this, we should work together to partner in not only developing safe and workable festival standards and best practice, but also build relationships and mutual respect. In our view, having a collaborative process of consultation and development in partnership with our industry would be more likely to achieve the best outcomes.

We therefore urge the NSW Government to discontinue the festivals regulations whilst this inquiry is in train and until its findings and recommendations can be actioned.

We raise the following recommendations for the Committees consideration that we believe would be of real benefit for the future of live music festivals and events in NSW.

- Withdrawal of the current regulations until a new framework with an associated regulatory impact assessment can be prepared in consultation with the music industry
- Establishing a festivals working group to investigate industry standards and practices and develop guidelines comprising NSW Government agencies, industry peak bodies and event organisers across a range of festivals including the electronic music sector.
- Review the broader regulations and processes including local government best practice in developing a new model template for music festivals and events in NSW.
- Recognising the inherent lead in times for events and the operational requirements for event organisers to have approvals in a timely manner subsequent to lodging event plans.
- Providing more clarity and transparency with regards to user paid policing:
- Consideration of the findings from the Inquest into Music Festival deaths happening currently at the NSW Coroners Court.
- Considerations that the NSW Government host a Drug Summit that engages people from across government, the community, health and justice, and the music industry, which would allow us an opportunity to properly examine all the evidence and find the right mix of responses.

We thank the Committee for the opportunity to participate in this process and build a better mutual understanding across government and the electronic music sector. We note also that CMAG has also provided a submission to the Sydney's Night Time Economy Inquiry also being held at this time, and we commend this submission also to the Committee if of interest.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch if the inquiry would like further assistance from CMAG and our important community, recognising that we have a broad representation across the electronic music sector.

Yours sincerely,

***John Ferris - on behalf of the Club Music Advisory Group (CMAG)
Chair of Club Music Advisory Group
Head of Licensing and Sync***

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