



A statement from PPCA about the NSW Government's Music Festival licensing scheme

Music is part of our nation's cultural fabric and helps to define and reflect our unique character. For decades Australian artists have given the soundtrack to our lives and exported their sounds globally, taking our stories and perspective to the world.

The local music industry enables a broad ecosystem to flourish in both the cities and the regions – in the form of tours, festivals, live music venues, and local businesses.

PPCA represents the interests of over 2,500 licensors and 4,000 registered Australian recording artists. PPCA's registered artists and record labels range from small independent artists and labels to world renowned artists and major label record companies.

A thriving and vibrant local music scene is incredibly important to the development of recording artists, and critical to the success of our local record labels.

It is evident that live music is also a very important part of the NSW cultural landscape. An Australia Council 2017 survey found that in 2016 more than half of NSW residents attended live music events.

In addition, Live Performance Australia revealed that over 8 million Australians attended contemporary music performances in 2017, generating a revenue of \$826 million. It was also reported that NSW was the second largest contributor in revenue (32.7%) and in attendance (29.9%).

The NSW government's new Music Festival licensing scheme is a policy that has the potential to damage the live music industry of this state.

PPCA has been in communication with the government to try and reconcile both sides of the discussion.

We believe that when introducing such a scheme, there must be meaningful engagement with the Music Festival sector and have urged the government to commit to immediate and ongoing consultation with the sector to ensure that future amendments to the scheme are fit for purpose.

The Music Festival sector is a vast multinational industry that employs thousands of people, supports small businesses and enhances cultural tourism. These events have a significant financial flow-on effect

in the areas in which they are held, impacting accommodation operators, food and drink vendors, transport services and more.

Music events provide positive, inclusive and safe spaces for people from all walks of life. They add much to the social and cultural vibrancy of our communities, both big and small, in addition to their financial contribution to the NSW economy.

We call on the government to commit to immediate and ongoing consultation with the sector to properly understand its operation, economic and cultural contribution, as well as the severe and negative impact of these changes and potential alternative courses of action.

PPCA is ready to provide whatever assistance necessary to aid the process of collaboration and engagement with the sector to ensure that the government is equipped with all the relevant information in order to make informed decisions on this important issue.