



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 6 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

A BOLD NEW PLAN FOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15 November 2018

Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Planning and Environment has tabled its report on the music and arts economy in New South Wales. The committee has made numerous recommendations to revitalise the contemporary music ecosystem in New South Wales.

The Hon Paul Green MLC, Chair of the Committee said: 'Despite the significant contribution contemporary music makes to the New South Wales economy, this industry has traditionally been neglected by governments. New South Wales needs to harness the economic, social and cultural potential of the industry. To ensure the sector receives the attention it deserves, the committee has recommended that the Premier appoint a Minister for Music, the Arts and Culture in place of the Minister for the Arts, or appoint a Minister for Music in addition to the Minister for the Arts'.

The Chair continued: 'Artists and music industry stakeholders strongly advocated for the revitalisation of the industry. To kickstart this process, the committee has recommended that the NSW Government substantially increase funding for contemporary music to at least \$35 million over the next four years of forward estimates, and to have the Department of Premier and Cabinet drive the future work of the Sydney Night-Time Economy Taskforce'.

'There is a live music venue crisis in New South Wales, particularly Sydney. In many cases, planning, liquor licensing and noise provisions make it too difficult for venues to provide affordable live music. This situation is having a devastating effect on career pathways for musicians and emerging artists, destroying the touring network, adversely affecting Sydney's cultural reputation, and is adversely affecting visitor experiences. To address this crisis, the committee has recommended simplifying planning and liquor licensing provisions for creative spaces'.

In addition, the Chair stated: 'The committee has also recognised that there is a 'battle for space' in urban areas, particularly Sydney. To this end, we have recommended introducing a hybrid planning model that incorporates Victoria's 'agent of change' approach, along with the planned precinct approach adopted in Brisbane, Wollongong's initiatives to put entertainment precincts on S149 certificates, and simplifying noise complaint mechanisms.

'The committee additionally believes that gaming machine revenue could be directed to better support live cultural performances and has recommended that the NSW Government establish a community benefit fund using gaming machine revenue to support live music'.

'The report also discusses the importance of commercial and community radio in developing and sustaining a musician's career, and encourages streaming services to provide greater transparency around their operations'.

For further information about the inquiry, including the report, please visit the committee's website at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/musicandartseconomy.

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Paul Green MLC, on (02) 9230 3364