

Report on the activities of the Music Festival Roundtable for the financial year ending 30 June 2023

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1. Background

On 21 November 2019, the NSW Government commenced the [Music Festivals Act 2019](#) (“the Act”) to promote a safer environment at music festivals. The Act requires the establishment of a [Music Festival Roundtable](#) (“the Roundtable”) to support the growth of the music festival industry and the safety of patrons in attendance. The Act sets out the establishment, functions, membership, and operation of the Roundtable.

The Roundtable gives government agencies and industry stakeholders the opportunity to strengthen relationships, share information, address members’ priorities, and tackle emerging issues impacting music festivals in NSW. Membership of the Roundtable comprises equal distribution of government and industry representatives.

This report outlines the activities of the Roundtable from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 (“the reporting period”), as required by section 18 of the Act.

This was the first time since the introduction of the Act that there had been a full festival season.

1.1 New Government commitment

In April 2023, The Honourable John Graham MLC was appointed as the Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy. The new Government committed to a \$103 million injection to the contemporary music industry over the following four (4) years.

On 21 June 2023, Minister Graham attended the quarterly Music Festival Roundtable meeting and addressed Roundtable members. Minister Graham acknowledged the work that had been done by members and spoke about future industry support and the upcoming review of the Music Festivals Act.

2. Governance

Adjustments were made to the governance arrangements of the Roundtable in the reporting period as follows.

2.1 Co-chairs

Government Co-Chair

The CEO Hospitality and Racing DEIT, Mr Anthony Keon, officially remained the Government co-chair for the entirety of the reporting period. During the period, the Government co-chair role was filled by the following proxies:

- 9 November 2022 - James Hebron, A/Chief Executive Officer, Hospitality and Racing, Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade (DEIT)
- 29 March 2023 - Tarek Barakat (Proxy for Anthony Keon), Executive Director Policy and Programs, Hospitality and Racing, DEIT
- 21 June 2023 - Tarek Barakat (Proxy for Anthony Keon), Executive Director Policy and Programs, Hospitality and Racing, DEIT

Industry Co-Chair

Ms Julia Robinson remained as the industry co-chair for the entirety of the reporting period. For the 22 July 2022 meeting, Ms Robinson held the role of Managing Director for the Australia Festival Association. From the 9 November 2022 meeting, Ms Robinson held the role of Head of Policy and Advocacy, Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA).

The industry co-chair role was filled by the following proxy:

- 29 March 2023 - Mitch Wilson, Managing Director, Australian Festival Association (AFA)

On 21 June 2023 Mitch Wilson was nominated by industry to replace Ms Robinson as industry co-chair for the next reporting period starting July 2023.

2.2 Membership

A new representative was appointed during the reporting period to represent the NSW Police:

- Brett McFadden, Assistant Commissioner Traffic & Highway Patrol Command.

3. Meeting dates & attendance

There were four Roundtable meetings held during the reporting period, as required by section 17 of the Act:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| • 22 July 2022 | • 29 March 2023 |
| • 9 November 2022 | • 21 June 2023 |

The Act requires at least one (1) meeting of the Roundtable to be held on site at a music festival each year. The Roundtable meeting on 22 July 2022 was held on site at Splendour in the Grass at Byron Bay.

All meetings were a combination of online and in-person attendance.

An extraordinary meeting was held on 9 June 2023 for the purpose of establishing the position of the Roundtable in relation to those Festivals classified as Subject Music Festivals

under the Act which had applied to the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (ILGA) to have their Subject status reassessed (more detail below).

3.1 Quorum

Quorum requirements are 60% of members in attendance for all meetings except on-site festival meetings which require 40% attendance.

- 22 July 2022 - Quorum was reached with 47% of Roundtable members in attendance.
- 9 November 2022 - Quorum was reached with 73% of Roundtable members in attendance.
- 29 March 2023 - Quorum was reached with 68% of Roundtable members in attendance.
- 21 June 2023 - Quorum numbers were reached with 68% of Roundtable members in attendance.

4. Topics discussed

Meeting	Topic	Presenter
22 July 2022	Presentation on Splendour in the Grass festival	Industry
	Guest Speaker - Byron Shire, Sustainable Environment and Economy	Byron Shire Council
	Roundtable members and guests tour of the festival	Industry
9 November 2022	Public Health orders and festival stats	Government
	Music Festival ticket sales and attendees	Industry
	Splendour in the Grass event planning and costs	Industry
	Music Festival Roundtable Subcommittee	Industry and Government
	Music Industry Review - <i>Raising Their Voices</i>	Industry
	Health NSW stats and trends	Government
29 March 2023	Australian Festival Association (AFA) update	Industry
	Music Festival Roundtable Subcommittee	Industry and Government
	Presentation on 'Transmission' festival	Government
	Presentation on 'Strawberry Fields' festival	Industry
	Presentation on 'World Pride'	Government

09 June 2023	Music festival subject status reassessment applications	Industry and Government
21 June 2023	Health NSW stats and trends	Government
	Guest speaker – The Hon John Graham MLC	Minister for Music and the Night-Time Economy
	24 Hour Economy Commissioner update	Government
	Music Festival Act review	Government
	Australian Festival Association (AFA) update	Industry
	Music Festival calendar	Government
	Music Festival Roundtable Subcommittee	Industry and Government
	Subject Music Festival submissions and reassessment process	Government
	Presentation on ‘Groovin the Moo’ festival	Government

5. Outcomes achieved

At the first Roundtable it was agreed that outcomes from each Roundtable would be made publicly available. This continued during the reporting period. Roundtable outcomes are available on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website at:

www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au/resources/music-festival-roundtable-publications

Music Festival subject status reassessments

Under section 5 of the Act, the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (ILGA), may form the opinion that a festival is a subject festival and direct the organiser to prepare a safety management plan (SMP). In forming that opinion, ILGA may have regard to any advice from the music festival roundtable, the Health Secretary or the Commissioner of Police. Music festival organisers can also make a submission outlining reasons why a proposed festival should not be determined a subject festival.

At the music festival roundtable meeting on 29 March 2023, Liquor and Gaming NSW committed to putting in place a process that would provide an opportunity for organisers to make a submission about the status of their festival.

In May 2023, all forty (40) festivals that had been previously declared subject, were offered the opportunity to apply for a reassessment of their subject status. It was the first time a

reassessment opportunity had been offered to industry. Sixteen (16) applications were submitted.

As part of the reassessment process, ILGA sought the view of the Music Festival Roundtable. An Extraordinary Roundtable meeting was held on 9 June 2023 to discuss the applications. All applicants included in the reassessment were also given the opportunity to speak directly with ILGA about their application.

The reassessment applications were also given to NSW Police and NSW Health for comment and advice.

Relevant submissions received from NSW Police and NSW Health were provided to each applicant, along with redacted minutes from the Extraordinary Roundtable meeting. Applicants provided submissions in response.

All submissions received from NSW Police, NSW Health and the organiser, along with redacted minutes from the Extraordinary Roundtable meeting, were collated with a covering brief and presented to ILGA for its consideration.

Of the sixteen (16) applications, two (2) festivals had their subject status removed and were confirmed 'not subject' and it was determined that nine (9) would remain 'subject' festivals.

Five (5) festivals advised that their festival would not be held again in NSW and ILGA therefore determined they were no longer considered subject. ILGA noted this decision was contingent on the events no longer occurring in NSW and, should they occur in future, their subject status may be reassessed.

Subject festival guidance fact sheet

A subject festivals guidance factsheet and music festivals flowchart were created to assist event organisers plan and prepare for a festival. The information was made available to Industry in February 2023 and published on the NSW.gov website.

The documents are available in numerous sections of the music festivals page:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/working-and-business/music-festivals>.

Individual links for each document on the website found here:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/working-and-business/music-festivals/music-festival-flowchart>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/working-and-business/music-festivals/subject-festival-guidance>

6. Future activities

Section 20(2) of the Act requires that the Minister undertake a review of the Act as soon as practicable 5 years after its commencement. This review was due to commence in 2024, however, it was brought forward and commenced in October 2023.

Liquor & Gaming NSW will undertake the review and a report will be provided to the Government in Q2 2024. The review will encompass targeted consultation with members of the Music Festivals Roundtable and other affected stakeholders such as organisers of subject music festivals and ILGA. The review will consider all aspects of the operation of the Music Festivals Act. It will not consider drug policy or public health policy.