

# Music Festival Roundtable

## 19 May 2021



## Outcomes and Next Steps

The Music Festival Roundtable provides government agencies, lawmakers, regulators and industry stakeholders the opportunity to strengthen relationships, share information, address members' priorities and tackle emerging issues impacting music festivals in NSW.

It is established by the Minister for Customer Service under the *Music Festivals Act 2019*, with its functions specified in the Act and which include supporting the growth of the music festival industry in NSW and the safety of patrons. Membership of the Roundtable is also outlined in the Act and comprises equal distribution of government and industry representatives.

Joint statements about key meeting topics and outcomes are published below:

### Music Festival Roundtable—19 May 2021

- The sixth Music Festival Roundtable was held on 19 May 2021. The government co-chair was John Tansey, Executive Director Policy & Strategy, Better Regulation Division, Department of Customer Service and the industry co-chair was Julia Robinson, General Manager of the Australian Festival Association (AFA).
- Adam Smith and Ben Tillman from Yours and Owls presented an overview of their festival held on 17-18 April 2021. They discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on the planning and delivery of their festival, including the considerable additional financial cost, their approach to delivering a COVID-Safe event and the challenges of obtaining the COVID-19 and normal music festivals approvals processes from various Government agencies when requirements were changing.
- Julia Robinson from the AFA advised work on sexual health and safety at music festivals is underway with some of their members in Victoria and the Pennington Institute, intending to share more information with members when it is available.
- Julia Robinson led a discussion on the skills shortage issues faced by the industry as they organise events. Particular concerns were raised about the lack of availability of quality security services and the increased costs as a result of demands placed on that sector by quarantine hotels and other roles. Members also discussed possible shortages in medical services, hospitality and ground staff, with some services impacted by the closed borders. Members also noted potential concerns around fatigue and mental health issues.
- Julia Robinson provided a verbal industry update. Julia noted business confidence was low after the BluesFest cancellation and consumer confidence had dropped while there is uncertainty around some future events that consumers are holding tickets for.
- Members discussed the difficulty bringing international artists into Australia with current 14-day quarantine requirements. Live Performance Australia representatives advised members of conversations with Government around future quarantine requirements, including for artists who have been vaccinated and impacts on national tours when Australian states and territories close borders. Nicholas Pickard from APRA AMCOS advised discussions with Australian Border Force about Australian artists travelling in and out of Australia have been positive.

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- Daniel Madeddu from NSW Health presented a paper circulated to members on the considerations for a COVID-19 restrictions roadmap for festivals. Daniel welcomed input and feedback from members on the document. Penny Pederson from Local Government NSW tabled a letter from Local Government NSW to Ministers Hazzard and Dominello calling for a risk scale system to help organisers decide whether to stage their event and a business and communication plan so organisers know who to communicate with in the event of an outbreak. Penny also asked for more guidance from NSW Health on how to apply for exemptions for mass gatherings. Members also discussed Government promotion of vaccination.
- John Tansey from Liquor & Gaming NSW noted that the Government response to the review of the Music Festivals Act 2019 is progressing.
- Rochelle Hurst from Liquor & Gaming NSW provided an update on the development of safety management plan templates. The formal industry consultation will take place on 15 June 2021 via an online forum hosted by Liquor & Gaming NSW. Participants can provide live feedback via an online survey.
- Stephen Bailey from Liquor & Gaming NSW provided an update on the guide being developed for music festival organisers. The draft is progressing and is expected to be shared with stakeholders shortly, with an opportunity to provide feedback. Once endorsed, the final version of the guide will be distributed to members before it will be published on the [nsw.gov.au](https://nsw.gov.au) website.

### **Next steps**

- Next roundtable meeting scheduled for August 2021

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### Attendee List

Roundtable attendees	Organisation
John Tansey	Department of Customer Service
Natasha Luschwitz	Department of Premier and Cabinet
Daniel Madeddu	Ministry of Health
Dean Johnson	NSW Police
David Dutton	NSW Ambulance
Luke Walton	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Phil Ventham	Destination NSW
Augusta Supple	Create NSW
Julia Robinson	Australian Festival Association
Adelle Robinson	Australian Festival Association
Elise Huntley	Australian Festival Association
Tara Benney	Australian Festival Association
Nicholas Pickard	APRA AMCOS
Emily Collins	Music NSW
Evelyn Richardson	Live Performance Australia
Annabelle Herd	Australian Recording Industry Association
Penelope Pedersen	Local Government NSW
Observers	Organisation
Christopher Ryder	NSW Rural Fire Service
Secretariat Team	Liquor & Gaming NSW
Guests	Organisation
Latha Jagadesswaran	NSW Treasury (o.b.o. 24 Hour Economy Commissioner)
Ben Tillman	Yours and Owls
Adam Smith	Yours and Owls
Kim Tran	Live Performance Australia
Sarah Norman	Ministry of Health
James Wilson	Ministry of Health
Claire Bunyon	Department of Premier and Cabinet (o.b.o. of Natasha Luschwitz at beginning of meeting)
David Ryan	Liquor & Gaming NSW
Rochelle Hurst	Liquor & Gaming NSW
Stephen Bailey	Liquor & Gaming NSW
Natalie McGrath	NSW Ambulance