

Music Festival Roundtable

2 December 2023



Outcomes

The Music Festival Roundtable (the Roundtable) provides government agencies and industry stakeholders the opportunity to collaborate, share information, address members' priorities, and discuss emerging issues impacting music festivals in NSW.

The Roundtable was formed under the *Music Festivals Act 2019* (the Act), the functions are specified in the Act. These include supporting the growth of the music festival industry in NSW and the ensuring the safety of patrons. Membership for the Roundtable is outlined in the Act and comprises an equal distribution of government and industry representatives. Joint statements about key meeting topics and outcomes are published below.

Music Festival Roundtable — 2 December 2023

- The fifteenth Roundtable was held on 2 December 2023 on-site at Good Things Festival, Sydney.
- The Government co-chair was Tarek Barakat, A/CEO, Hospitality and Racing, Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade (DEIT). Mitchell Wilson, Managing Director, Australian Festival Association (AFA) was the industry co-chair. Tarek Barakat chaired the meeting.
- Industry noted that costs, labour shortages and cost of living increases are continuing to negatively affect the viability of music festivals and although this issue is improving, the industry is yet to achieve a reliable level of consistency.
- The NSW Health Music Festival guidelines now incorporate approved harm reduction messaging to be displayed before, during, and after an event.
- A review of the Act is currently underway with targeted consultation with key stakeholders closing on 13 December 2023.
- The Subcommittee met on 21 November 2023. The discussion focused on media reporting of recent deaths at music festivals and NSW Health messaging.
- Tomas Finnerty from Greater Sydney Parklands provided the Roundtable with information about sound management and engagement practices with local residents.
- Roundtable members toured the Good Things Festival event site to experience the festival infrastructure, including the communications centre, medical set-up and main stage area.

Next meeting

- The next Roundtable meeting will be held on 20 March 2024.

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Attendee List

| Roundtable Members | Organisation |
|------------------------------|--|
| Tarek Barakat | Hospitality & Racing NSW |
| Luke Hanley | Destination NSW |
| Brett McFadden | NSW Police |
| Ruth Murphy | NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment |
| Emily Collins | Create NSW |
| Michael Rodrigues | 24 Hour Economy Commissioner |
| Penelope Pedersen | Local Government NSW |
| Mitchell Wilson | Australian Festival Association |
| Vanessa Seagrove | Unions NSW |
| Matt Francis | Live Performance Australia |
| Meeting Guests and Observers | Organisation |
| Gabbie Gallagher | Liquor & Gaming NSW |
| Angela Matheson | Health NSW |
| Sarah Dinning | Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority |
| Ben Priest | Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority |
| Deidre Rodwell | Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority |
| Liz Kelly | Health NSW |
| Mary Harrod | DanceWize |
| Caitlin Dooley | DanceWize |
| Tomas Finnerty | Greater Sydney Parklands |
| Jamie Zahra | NSW Police |

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| Clint Rasmussen | NSW Police |
| Warwick Rhodes | Live Nation Australia |
| Sean Sim | Liquor & Gaming NSW (Secretariat) |
| Samantha Slykhuis | Liquor & Gaming NSW (Secretariat) |