

Music Festival Roundtable

5 November 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:

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- The Music Festival Roundtable scheduled for 25 August 2021 was not held, by agreement of the Roundtable members. At that time, the music festival industry was closed for the foreseeable future, as required by the Public Health Orders for the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The seventh Music Festival Roundtable was held on 5 November 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).
- Julia Robinson from the Australian Festival Association presented an overview of the Festival sector, noting the recent easing of COVID-19 restrictions. An update was provided about an industry skill shortage including security and medical staff. Julia welcomed the recent funding NSW Government announcements for the sector particularly the Festival Relaunch Package.
- Julia presented on Harm Reduction training for NSW music festival event staff and patrons. The training is scheduled to be launched in November to coincide with the re-launch of the festival season.
- Daniel Madeddu from NSW Health presented on the most recent annual Drug Trends reports from the National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), UNSW.
- Paul Byleveld from NSW Health's Mass Gatherings team attended as a guest of the Roundtable to provide an update on the COVID-19 Roadmap. During the Roundtable meeting, the NSW Government announced that music festivals would be permitted from 15 December 2021 with up to 20,000 people, subject to density rules.
- Create NSW coordinated a presentation to be delivered to the Roundtable which included funding packages available to Industry from each of the following Government agencies:
 - Regional NSW
 - Create NSW
 - Destination NSW
 - NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- As part of that presentation, Sue Procter from Create NSW spoke about the \$25 million Festival Relaunch Package to be used to stabilise established commercial and not-for-profit festivals and to assist in delivery of festivals into 2022/23.

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- James Donnelly from Liquor & Gaming NSW provided an update on the implementation of the Government Response to the Roundtable Review of the *Music Festivals Act 2019*, including the migration of all music festival content from the Liquor & Gaming NSW website to the nsw.gov.au website.
- Anthony Vescio from Liquor & Gaming NSW provided an update on the Safety Management Plan template. It was noted that the template was developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders and the template can be used by all music festival organisers. The template is available on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website from 3 November 2021.
- Sarah Norman from NSW Health advised Roundtable members that the NSW guidelines for music festival organisers are being updated and a consultation period is open.
- Stephen Bailey from the Music Festival Roundtable Secretariat team, Liquor & Gaming NSW, presented a copy of the Report on the Activities of the Roundtable for the period ending 30 June 2021 to members, noting the report is due to be tabled in Parliament by the end of November.

Next steps

- Liquor & Gaming NSW and Australian Festival Association are to respond to the Local Government NSW request for a list of upcoming festivals to share with Councils.
- Industry and Government members to arrange offline discussions about timelines for COVID Safety plans and Safety Management Plans to be submitted and approved in light of the COVID roadmap for reopening on 15 December 2021.
- The next roundtable meeting is scheduled for February 2022, with discussions to continue about industry hosting a Roundtable meeting at an event during 2022, as required by the *Music Festivals Act 2019*.

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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
Sarah Norman	Ministry of Health
Anthony Cooke	NSW Police
David Dutton	NSW Ambulance
Luke Walton	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Craig Moran	Transport for NSW
Phil Ventham	Destination NSW
Augusta Supple	Create NSW
Julia Robinson	Australian Festival Association
Adelle Robinson	Australian Festival Association
Tara Benney	Australian Festival Association
Emily Collins	Music NSW
Anabelle Herd	Australian Recording Industry Association
Cr Penelope Pedersen	Local Government NSW
Vanessa Seagrove	Unions NSW
Guests/Observers	Organisation
Christopher Ryder	Rural Fire Service NSW (Standing invitation)
Laura Wythes	Rural Fire Service NSW
Simon Pogoriutchnig	Rural Fire Service NSW
Natalie McGrath	NSW Ambulance
Michael Bray	NSW Ambulance
Wayne McKenna	NSW Ambulance
Simon Glasser	NSW Police
Jacklyn Ryder	NSW Police
Taylah Mortimer	NSW Police
Anthony Vescio	Liquor & Gaming NSW
James Donnelly	Liquor & Gaming NSW
Darren Duke	Liquor & Gaming NSW
Marcel Savary	Liquor & Gaming NSW
Sascha Orrock	Liquor & Gaming NSW
Mel Hircock	Liquor & Gaming NSW / ILGA
Alana Skibola	Liquor & Gaming NSW
Sue Procter	Create NSW
Paul Byleveld	Ministry of Health
Marianne Kearney	Ministry of Health
Eliza Quinert	Ministry of Health

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James Wilson	Ministry of Health
Richie Robinson	Regional NSW
Bec Mouy	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Clare Bunyon	Department of Premier & Cabinet
Nicholas Pickard	APRA AMCOS
Mitchell Wilson	Australian Festivals Association
Stephen Bailey	Liquor & Gaming NSW (Secretariat)
Astrid Harriott	Liquor & Gaming NSW (Secretariat)
Stephen Biddulph	Liquor & Gaming NSW (Secretariat)